HIKARU NAKAMURA
SAINT☆YOUNG MEN

SQUEE

AH HA HA HA

ICE SKATING RINK

WAAAH! I'M GONNA FALL, I'M GONNA FALL!

STUMBLING AND FALLING ARE PARTS OF PERSONAL GROWTH.

KSHHHH

YEAH, I'M FINE. I'VE GOT THIS...

OH, NO! MY FEET ARE GETTING FARTHER APART!!

BUDDHA, HOW ARE YOU? ARE YOU OKAY?!

FLUTTER

FLUTTER

AH!

ZLIP

MURMUR

MURMUR

IT HASN'T BROKEN MY SPIRIT YET.

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

CLAMP

CLAMP

WAIT— NO, JESUS!

?!

GRAB

YOU CAN'T FLOAT OUT HERE IN PUBLIC...

AT THIS POINT, I THINK YOU'RE BETTER OFF JUST FALLING!

SAINT YOUNG MEN
Chapter 23
Compulsory Courtesy Chocolate
Nissin Foods
CupNoodle
RINK
ICE

WHEW, JUST IN TIME...
MURMUR
MURMUR
BUT SAINTS ...
Sorry, sorry...
...CAN MAKE EVEN STUMBLING LOOK LIKE A MIRACLE.
HONESTLY. WE WERE THIS CLOSE TO ATTRACTING UNWANTED ATTENTION!
10.0!!!
10.0!!
10.0!!
FSHHH

WHAT? OH, NO, IT WASN'T ANY-THING LIKE THAT...

THAT WAS A MATTER OF PROFES-SIONAL DIGNITY.

I'M SORRY. IS THAT WHY YOU WERE SO RELUCTANT TO COME ALONG?

You've been glum since we left...

SIGH...

I KNEW IT WAS A BAD IDEA FOR TWO BEGINNERS TO GO ICE SKATING TOGETHER.

SIGN: AMUSEMENT PARK

THAT'S DANGEROUS TALK FROM MAN PERM OF "MAN PERM AND HIPPIE"!

YOU'RE ALL, "HEY, LET'S GO GET COLD FEET TOGETHER" ...

I MEAN, I HAVE SOME NEW MATERIAL I CAME UP WITH THE OTHER DAY,

AND I WANT TO BELIEVE IT'S GOOD ENOUGH TO BEAT THAT KIND OF JINX, BUT...

That comeback... could have been more creative.

Sigh...

COME TO THINK OF IT, HE HAS BEEN A LITTLE MORE INTENSE WHEN WE'RE WATCHING COMEDY LATELY...

SIR! PLEASE GET DOWN!!

AAAAH! WE'RE GONNA CRASH!

FSHHH

SKATING IS WAY TOO SCARY. THIS IS NOT FUN AT...

BUT TO BE HONEST, EVEN ALL THAT ASIDE...

I MEAN,YOU COULDN'T JINX US WORSE IF YOU TRIED!

ESPECIALLY SINCE WE FINALLY DECIDED TO TRY FOR THE M-1 GRAND PRIX THIS YEAR...

That spin was incredible!

FSH

WHEN DID YOU GET TO BE SO AMBI-TIOUS?!

ARE—

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I'm sorry! I can't let go of his hand!

FSHHH

ACK?!

WHAA ...!

BUDDHA: MAKES CURRY FROM CURRY POWDER.

YEAH...

THE WAY I WENT UNDER THEM...

GOOD THING THEY MADE IT PAST YOU WITHOUT CRASHING ...

JESUS: HIS CURRY MUST ALWAYS HAVE MILK TO COUNTER-ACT THE SPICINESS.

...I *DEFINITELY* WOULD HAVE GOTTEN A 1-UP!!

LIKE THIS

1UP!

DING-ALING-ALING

IF THIS WERE A SHOOTER GAME...

...NO...

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE DOING IT AGAIN WILL REALLY GIVE YOU ANY KIND OF 1-UP...

HA HA! WOW, YOU'RE REALLY FIRED UP ALL OF A SUDDEN.

OH MAN! I WANNA DO THAT AGAIN!

THAT WAS SUPER FUN, BUDDHA!!

...IT WILL ADD ONE TO YOUR BUDDHA FACE COUNTDOWN!

DING-A-LING-LING

EVERY TIME I GO THROUGH A CIRCLE ...

JUST A— WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST COME UP WITH YOUR OWN RANDOM SYSTEM?!

ICE SKATING RINK

KSHH

THAK

THAK

THAK

OKAY! IF I CAN GET THE FACE COUNT UP TO 10, MAYBE I CAN GET A NEW PC WITHOUT TAKING ANY DAMAGE!

KSHHHH

5-UP!

6-UP!

7-UP!

I GUESS I'LL GO OUT THERE, TOO...

4-UP!!

ALTHOUGH, IF SOMETHING HAPPENS WHILE WE'RE **BOTH** ON THE ICE, NEITHER OF US COULD HELP THE OTHER...

2-UP!

Ack! What just happened?!

HONESTLY. HE'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS WHEN HE MAKES UP LITTLE GAMES FOR HIMSELF...

OH WELL. AT LEAST HE'S HAVING FUN...

NOW I CAN TELL YOU I WANT TO...

DID YOU SEE THAT, BUDDHA?!

...I can skate now!!

And hey, I think...

10-UP! I DID IT!!

Ice Skate

WH-WHOA, IT'S BEEN A WHOLE HOUR...

IS THE FACE COUNT AT ZERO...?!

I-I'M SORRY, BUDDHA. I JUST GOT SO INTO IT...

OH!

B... BUDDHA ...?

WHAK

WHAK

WHAT... WHAT IS HE DOING? DON'T TELL ME...

BUY A NEW...

WHAK

WHAK

WHAK

WHAK

WHAK

HA HA HA. NO, I WASN'T VENTING...

Aaaahh, I'm so sorry!!

WH-WHAT A RELIEF. IT LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE TAKING YOUR ANGER OUT ON THE SNOW...

HUH?

WHAT'S UP, JESUS? WELCOME BACK!

IT CALMS MY MIND.

I WAS CARVING SNOW-BUDDHAS.

WHAK

...SO, BUDDHA, I WAS THINKING I'D LIKE TO BUY A NEW...

...

...WOW. TEN BEAUTIFULLY CARVED SNOW BUDDHAS ...

THUS, JESUS WAS ENLIGHTENED TO THE FACT THAT NOT EVEN TEN LIVES WOULD BE ENOUGH TO DEFEAT THIS OPPONENT.

...NOPE. NOT A THING.

HM? DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?

WHAK WHAK WHAK WHAK WHAK

AND YOU KNOW, TOWARDS THE END ...

I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S NOT A PROBLEM. I HAD FUN WATCHING YOU!

Heh heh. I think I'll take you up on that.

I'll treat you to some cocoa!!

⇦ Shop
⇨ Skating Rink

I'M SORRY. I REALLY AM. YOU MUST HAVE BEEN COLD, STANDING AROUND DOING NOTHING.

YEAH, THEY *DID* START SEEKING ME OUT, COME TO THINK OF IT...

They were calling you Mr. One-Up.

"IF THE MAN WITH THE BEARD SKATES UNDER A COUPLE, THEY'LL BE TOGETHER FOREVER."

PEOPLE EVEN CAME UP WITH A NEW TRADITION. THEY SAID...

NO... I THOUGHT THIS WAS YOUR GUY'S FESTIVAL.

...IS IT CACAO SEASON?

St. Val

SEE? THERE'S A WHOLE SECTION FOR IT OVER THERE.

A Gift of Love for Your Beloved

Milk Chocolate

WELL, YEAH. OF COURSE THERE WERE.

TODAY IS VALEN-TINE'S DAY.

WHRRR

THERE WERE SO MANY COUPLES THERE.

WHAT? NO. THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT.

St. Vale

VALEN-TINUS-SAN...

IT'S FOR, YOU KNOW... THE GUY I MET AT THAT HOTPOT PARTY...

WHAT?

YEAH, I GUESS HE DID PROCLAIM HIMSELF THE PATRON SAINT OF KIMCHI...

...and kimchi ...

I want to protect lovers...

VALENTINUS'S ORIGINAL KIMCHI

ULTRA SPICY

VALENTINUS-SAN IS ALL ABOUT THE SPICY FOOD. HE WOULD NEVER BE INVOLVED WITH A *CHOCOLATE* FESTIVAL...

WELL, ACTUALLY, IN JAPAN, THIS IS THE DAY GIRLS CONFESS THEIR LOVE.

YEAH... BUT WHY CHOCOLATE ...?

HE ACTUALLY *IS* THE PATRON SAINT OF LOVERS, RIGHT?

BUT IT'S HIM.

...YOU KNOW, IT'S GETTING A LITTLE HOT IN HERE...

What are you getting at?

FWOOSH

WHAT'S GOING ON? ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT HOW MUCH GIRLS LIKE YOU?

OH *REALLY* ...

THEY GIVE CHOCOLATE TO A BOY THEY LIKE AND TELL HIM THEY LOVE HIM...

...It's cute, don't you think?

I MEAN, IT IS BASICALLY JUST A BIG COMPETITION SET UP BY THE CANDY COMPANIES, SO IT MIGHT NOT BE YOUR THING...

I KNOW, BUT... I AM GOING THROUGH KIND OF A POPULAR PHASE RIGHT NOW...

Downey Downey Downey

Ice

THE ONLY PERSON WHO *MIGHT* EVEN CONSIDER GIVING US SOMETHING IS MATSUDA-SAN!

HONESTLY, WHAT WOULD YOU EVEN BE EXPECTING?

YEAH... THERE REALLY WAS A WHOLE STRING OF THEM...

I mean, most of the women only joined because of Ananda.

OH, YEAH. KNOWING HIM, I BET PRACTICALLY EVERY GIRL WHO SEES HIM FALLS IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.

IT CAUSED A LOT OF PROBLEMS FOR ANANDA.

LISTEN, WHEN A SAINT ATTRACTS ROMANTIC ATTENTION, IT'S NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.

...BUT NOT EVEN POINTING OUT HIS PHYSICAL IMPURITIES WOULD DETER THEM.

Yes! It's true!!

Believe it or not, he does have eye mocos and boogers.

...THOSE POOR GIRLS HAD THEIR HEARTS STOLEN BY HIS GOOD LOOKS. I TRIED TO BRING THEM TO THEIR SENSES...

FLASH

IT GOT SO BAD, I ACTUALLY HAD TO FORBID ANANDA FROM LOOKING GIRLS IN THE EYE...

OF COURSE! BECAUSE IF THEY GAINED ENLIGHTENMENT AND LOST THEIR WORLDLY DESIRES, THEIR ROMANTIC FEELINGS... WOULD...

SO IF THEY WANTED TO BE WITH HIM THAT BADLY, I TOLD THEM THEY'D HAVE TO JOIN OUR FAITH.

NO, EVEN BEFORE THAT...

Oohhh!

THAT'S ALMOST AS BAD AS MEDUSA!

That was all it took, and they were smitten...

...AND MOST GIRLS WOULD GET OVER HIM REAL FAST.

You must be tired!

Oh, and here's some food!!

Buddha-sama, I think I learned something from what you said earlier!!

THEY WOULD SEE HOW DEVOTED ANANDA WAS TO ME...

HE DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE...

...TO OPERATE ON HIS BACK WITHOUT ANESTHESIA.

...LIKE, I REMEMBER ONE TIME WHEN WE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HOW FOCUSED ON ME HE COULD GET...

IT IS THANKS TO ANANDA DEVOTEDLY MEMORIZING THE BUDDHA'S TEACHINGS THAT BUDDHISM EXISTS TODAY.

DON'T FINISH THAT SENTENCE, BUDDHA! FOR HIS SAKE!

I mean, he had this gaping hole in his back... but there he was with this bright smile on his face...

...EVEN I FOUND IT A LITTLE BIT—

PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU WERE SO OBSESSED WITH SETSUBUN.

St. Valentine Special

I LOVE YOU

THIS IS SUCH A FUN EVENT! WHY DIDN'T I NOTICE IT LAST YEAR?!

OOHH! THERE REALLY ARE LOVE NOTES WRITTEN ON THE CHOCOLATE ...

Y-YEAH... I DON'T WANT TO EAT ANOTHER BEAN FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER 10 CENTURIES ...

60 beans a day...

Don't overdo it, Jesus!!

Setsubun

YOU'D ALWAYS MAKE A BEELINE FOR THE BEAN AISLE WHEN WE WENT TO THE GROCERY STORE...

YOU WERE ALL, "I'M GONNA DO IT! I'M GONNA EAT ONE BEAN FOR EACH YEAR OF MY LIFE BEFORE FEBRUARY IS OVER."

BUT... IF YOU WANT ANGELS...

I don't think those are *my* angels...

THE ONES THAT ARE SUPPOSED TO MAKE YOU FALL IN LOVE IF THEY HIT YOU IN THE HEART...

WELL, DON'T YOU HAVE THOSE ANGELS WITH THE ARROWS?

I REALLY HOPE EV-ERYTHING WORKS OUT, YOU KNOW?

OH...

IT'LL BE FINE, I PROMISE! YOU CAN DO THIS!

AAAAHH! I DON'T KNOW, I'M SO NERVOUS!

NO! HE WOULD AIM FOR THE *PHYSICAL* HEART INSTEAD OF THE *EMOTIONAL* ONE. I DON'T THINK *MY* HEART COULD TAKE IT!!

URIEL CAN GET HERE IN FIVE SECONDS. SHOULD I CALL HIM?

THAT'S SO CUTE. DO YOU THINK SHE'S GOING TO TELL A BOY SHE LIKES HIM?

AWW, THERE ARE BOYS OVER THERE TALKING ABOUT LOVE IN FRONT OF THE CHOCOLATE...

HOW ABOUT YOU? IF YOU DID GET CHOCOLATE FROM SOMEONE, WHAT KIND WOULD YOU WANT?

YEAH, THAT'S TRUE.

WELL, THEY PROBABLY WON'T NEED HELP. THE POWER OF LOVE CAN OVERCOME ANYTHING.

I DUNNO, I'M NOT TOO INTO MATERIAL GIFTS...

WHAT? ME?

IT'S SO CUTE WHEN BOYS TALK ABOUT THOSE THINGS ...

I BET IF THEY EXCHANGED GIFTS WITH EACH OTHER, THEY'D PROBABLY BOTH BE HAPPY.

...We like a lot of the same things...

IF only they could be friends...

MARA TRIED TO GIVE ME THE SAME THING...

THOSE DEVIL TYPES HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO GIVE GOOD GIFTS.

BUT I JUST WASN'T FEELING IT...

ONE TIME, SATAN-SAN WAS ALL, "I SHALL GIVE YOU THE WORLD!"

This guy's a real pain...

Join now, and I'll throw in the whole world!

What do you say?!

I'm like, "What are you, a Dragon Quest style demon king?"

FOR SURE. THAT'S WHAT'S *REALLY* IMPORTANT.

Mm-hm, mm-hm.

BUT I THINK I AGREE THAT IT'S MORE ABOUT THE CIRCUM-STANCES THAN THE GIFT ITSELF.

I MEAN, IF IT'S GOING TO BE CHOCOLATE EITHER WAY...

OH, RIGHT, WHEN YOU WERE OUT TRAINING IN THE WILDER-NESS.

THEN IT MIGHT BE NICE IF SHE GOT ME TO THE BRINK OF STARVATION AND *THEN* GAVE IT TO ME!

Oh, my!

What is this? It smells amazing!! Is this woman a goddess?!

ALL THROUGH MY LIFE ...

...BUT REALLY, IN ALL SERIOUS-NESS, I'D BE HAPPY WITH ANYTHING.

...Who, me?

You're too much!

YEAH, THEN EVEN ONE TIROL OR A SINGLE M&M WOULD TASTE INCREDIBLE.

...?!

WOW, THAT WAS A SURPRISE.

WHAT KIND OF TRAGICALLY CRUEL COURTESY CHOCOLATES HAVE YOU BEEN GETTING?!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, MA'AM? DID YOU JUST GET SOME SAD NEWS?!

It's all I need.

All I have are leftovers.

WHEN PEOPLE GAVE ME ALMS...

...I WOULD EAT ANY-THING, EVEN IF IT WAS LEFTOVERS, OR HAD SAND IN IT.

HEH HEH. LOOKS LIKE THE GIRLS ARE FINALLY STARTING TO NOTICE US.

And she was crying...

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE WOMAN AT THE CORNER STORE GAVE US THIS CHOCOLATE...

THAT'S AGAPE.

WHEN YOU WANT TO GIVE LOVE TO ALL THOSE IN NEED...

These fit into one of those categories.

DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY. APPARENTLY THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF CHOCOLATE YOU CAN GET, LIKE COURTESY CHOCOLATE, AND FRIENDSHIP CHOCOLATE.

NO I COULDN'T!

WE BOTH RENOUNCED ALL WORLDLY THINGS.

OH, BUT I BET *YOU* COULD GET SOME TRUE LOVE CHOCOLATE FROM YASODHARA-SAN!

I WOULD ***LOVE*** FOR SOMEONE TO GIVE ME TRUE LOVE CHOCO-LATE!!

WHAT?! WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?!

Yasodhara Valentine's Day

Do you like truffles?? I'll send you some tomorrow! I bought some soft caramels for Jesus-san!❤

BUT I TOLD HER NOT TO.

IN FACT, SHE SENT ME A TEXT SAYING SHE'D SEND ME SOME CHOCOLATE TODAY.

AND TRUE LOVE CHOCOLATE CAN BE "EROS CHOCOLATE"!

THEY SHOULD CALL ALL THOSE OTHER KINDS OF CHOCOLATE "AGAPE CHOCO-LATE"...

THAT WOULD COMPLETELY DESTROY THE INNOCENT CHARM OF TRUE LOVE CHOCOLATE!

THIS DELUSION OF YOURS DOESN'T REALLY SEEM IN LINE WITH AGAPE TO ME.

CAN YOU IMAGINE IT?!

"OKAY...! UM, PLEASE MAKE ME ONE OF YOUR BELIEVERS!"

"THE GODS ARE HERE! GO FOR IT!!"

WHOOSH

JUST PICTURE IT— WE'RE WALKING HOME... WE TURN THE CORNER AT THE TELEPHONE POLL.

AND THERE ARE THREE OR FOUR HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS STANDING THERE...

OH! LOOK! THERE HE IS!

BUDDHA-SAMA!

BESIDES, THAT STUFF ONLY HAPPENS IN MANGA.

I CAN'T! I ADAMANTLY REFUSE TO ACCEPT IT!

#Just #take it!

WHAT? BUT I TEXTED HER NO...

UM, THIS CHOCO-LATE IS FROM YAS-ODHARA-SAMA...

Squee!

Squee!

WHAT?!

...PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT.

GOTAMA milk

WHOA! YOU'RE SO LUCKY, BUDDHA!!

DIRECTLY THROUGH YOUR PORES.

BECAUSE IF YOU REFUSE, WE'VE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO GIVE IT TO YOU ANYWAY.

GOTAMA milk chocolate

GLOOOOP

WE DEVAS WANTED TO GIVE YOU SOME CHOCOLATE, TOO, SO...

GLOOP

GLOOP

GLOOP

BESIDES, YOU'VE LOST MUCH TOO MUCH WEIGHT, BUDDHA-SAMA...

SWEATER: THE BEST OX

THE WHOLE INCIDENT REMINDED HIM OF A MARSH-MALLOW BEING DIPPED IN CHOCOLATE FONDUE. HE WOULD NEVER SPEAK OF THIS UNDER ANY CIRCUM-STANCES.

THE BEST WAY TO THANK THEM WILL BE TO GET MYSELF THIN AS A BOARD BY WHITE DAY.

CHUB

ポム!

最上の牛

WITH THAT MANY ADMIRERS, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE A TOUGH TIME GETTING THANK YOU GIFTS FOR THEM ALL.

... DON'T BE SILLY.

W... WOW ...

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!

YEEEAARGH!

WHITE DAY

Diet Notebook
How to Become Like Tezuka's Buddha
Goal
Dear Devas
COOKIES: EMPTINESS
Dear Yasodhara
Here is some tiramisu.
Siddhartha

SAINT YOUNG MEN

DON'T DO THIS, BRAHMA.

THIS IS THE FATE YOU WERE BORN TO...

SFF OO!

THIS ISN'T WHAT ANYBODY WANTS!

AND THIS ...

ACK!

BOOM

THIS IS FOR ANANDA!!

BOOM

THIS IS FOR RAHULA!!

WHOOSH

ROLL

ROLL

ROLL

KER-

IS A SWEET TEA SPLASH FROM ME! HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!!

SPLAAAASH

HEY, YOU'RE AIMING FOR MY URNA, AREN'T YOU?!

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 24

Buddha Day

BUDDHA: WAS APPROACHED FOR AN ON-THE-STREET INTERVIEW AND TOOK IT SERIOUSLY, BUT WAS STUNNED BY THE BEHAVIOR OF HIS ASSOCIATE.

AND IN JAPAN, IT IS CELEBRATED BY POURING SWEET TEA ON STATUES OF THE BUDDHA HOUSED IN FLOWER-COVERED SHRINES.

TODAY, APRIL 8, WE REMEMBER A HOLY BIRTH.

IT IS THE DAY WE COMMEMORATE THE BIRTH OF BUDDHA.

BRAHMA: GUARDIAN DEITY OF BUDDHIST LAW. CONVINCED BUDDHA TO SHARE HIS TEACHINGS WITH THE WORLD AFTER BUDDHA GAINED ENLIGHTENMENT. SPOKE PASSIONATELY ABOUT KAMABOKO FISH CAKE IN AN ON-THE-STREET INTERVIEW.

UGH... DON'T TELL ME YOU BOUGHT THAT DIABOLICAL TOY JUST FOR TODAY...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SIDDHARTHA.

I HAVE COME ON BEHALF OF THE HEAVENS TO BRING YOU THEIR BEST WISHES.

JESUS: HAPPENED TO CATCH BUDDHA AND BRAHMA'S ON-THE-STREET INTERVIEW WHEN IT WAS ON TV.

WHAT?! YOU'RE KEEPING IT SECRET?

I DON'T WANT YOU TALKING TO JESUS ABOUT MY BIRTHDAY.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE HEAVENS' ACCOUNTING PRACTICES?

DON'T WORRY. IT'S A BUSINESS EXPENSE.

SHIRT: GAUTAMA

WELCOME BACK, BUDDHA! WOW, LOOK AT YOU SWEAT!!

ACK!

I'M HOME!

YEAH, HA HA ...

HUH? WERE YOU JUST LEAVING?

NO, IT'S NOT THAT I WANT TO KEEP IT A SECRET...

OH, RIGHT, BRAHMA-SAN. I NEED TO ASK YOU NOT TO COME INSIDE TODAY.

I JUST... HAD THIS THING TO TAKE CARE OF, KIND OF IMPORTANT ...

I MEAN, ACTUALLY NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL... REALLY, SUPER UNIMPORTANT.

WHAT?

UH.

YEAH!

I'M PRETTY SURE HE'S WORKING ON A BIRTHDAY SURPRISE FOR ME...

Good luck!!

OKAY, SEE YOU LATER.

I'm off.

IT'S, UH... YOU KNOW!

SO... OKAY?

HUSTLE SHOPPI

BUT I HOPE HE ISN'T WEARING HIMSELF OUT...

HE'S BEEN LEAVING AT FIVE O'CLOCK EVERY DAY FOR THE LAST WEEK...

Ack! I'm gonna be late!

UH, I'D LIKE THAT STUFFED DOG.

WEL-COME!!

I APPRECIATE THAT HE WANTS TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME.

YOU CAN'T DO THAT, JESUS-CHAN.

IT'S FREE ?!

SUCH BEAUTIFUL AGAPE! THERE'S NO PUTTING A PRICE ON A GRAND-FATHER'S LOVE!

YES, UH, FOR MY GRAND-DAUGHTER'S BIRTHDAY.

Does it have a name?

The doggo, right?

WILL THIS BE A GIFT, SIR?

Heh heh...

SUCH ...

ピピピ BEEP BEEP

OF COURSE, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT KIND OF GIFTS TO GIVE A GIRL.

ANYWAY, HOW'S IT GOING? DID YOU SAVE UP YOUR MONEY?

OH, THAT'S ALL RIGHT.

I'M VERY SORRY, BOSS...

APRONS: KOTORIYA

HE'S WILLING TO SPEND HIS ENTIRE WEEK'S PAY...

Yesss! I'll write it right now!!

THIS MUST BE A VERY GOOD FRIEND.

WOW! YOU'RE LETTING ME HAVE THIS?!

I'LL LOAN YOU A PEN, TOO, SO YOU CAN WRITE YOUR MESSAGE WHEN YOU GET A FREE MINUTE.

OH, YES, THANK YOU. WHAT I EARN TODAY WILL BE JUST ENOUGH.

YOUR FRIEND'S BIRTHDAY IS TODAY, ISN'T IT?

HAPPY BIRTH-DAY!

THEN HERE'S A BIRTHDAY CARD.

SACHAN

Dear

Holy am I alone throughout Heaven and Earth.

SQUEAK

USACHAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

HE SAID THIS AS SOON AS HE WAS BORN. THAT'S THE KIND OF MAN HE IS.

HOLY AM I ALONE ...

NO, NO! HE'S FROM THE SHAKYA PEOPLE!

Extortion is a crime! The police will help you!!

YOU CAN'T LET THOSE BIKER GANG PEOPLE INTIMIDATE YOU, JESUS-CHAN!!

I ALREADY ORDERED IT FROM THE NEARBY ELECTRONICS SHOP, SO NOW I JUST HAVE TO PICK IT UP.

Oh! The newest Masked Rider...

BUT MAN, I'M GLAD I MANAGED TO SAVE UP THE MONEY IN TIME.

PLAYING IT COOL SO AS NOT TO ENLIGHTEN BUDDHA ABOUT THE SURPRISE...

Well, I'll see you later...

THE FEELS...

THIS LAST WEEK HAS BEEN ROUGH...

OH! WELCOME TO—

KA-CHAK

Gah, stop it! You're getting off track...

IN TIME, I WILL SHARE THE SCREEN WITH JOHNNY DEPP, IN THE ROLE OF HIS BROTHER ...

NOW, WHEN THE DAY FINALLY ARRIVES FOR MY TELEVISION ACTING DEBUT...

HEH HEH... I'M SUCH A GOOD ACTOR ...

Heh heh...

COME FORTH, TV ROLES...!

HE SAYS THE STRANGEST THINGS TO HIMSELF...

KITSU

WHAT IS BUDDHA DOING HERE?!

WHAT...

OH! HE HAS HIS SHOPPING BAG, SO I GUESS HE'S JUST STOPPING BY ON A GROCERY RUN.

I MEAN, I KNOW HE COMES TO THE HUSTLE SHOPPING STREET A LOT...

AFTER HE WAS SO UPSET THAT THE DOG IN PUPPY AND ME GOT ATTACHED TO HIM SO QUICKLY...

HEE HEE. HE'S LOOKING AT THE VIRTUAL PET GAMES AGAIN...

OH! HE'S LOOKING AT THE DS GAMES.

WHICH MEANS HE'S JUST WINDOW SHOPPING— HE'S NOT ACTUALLY PLANNING TO BUY ANY-THING, RIGHT?

UNLEASHED HOSTILITY!!

Mongrel and Me

"Mongrel and Me" "Puppy and Me" is bac and harder than ever With a variety of ne actions like "snarl," "bite," that will break your heart!!

STAFF PICK!

WHAT KIND OF COMPANY WOULD RELEASE A BUDDHA-TIER GAME LIKE THAT?!

B-DMP

B-DMP

FILLING OUT THAT QUESTION-NAIRE IN EXCRUCIATING DETAIL REALLY PAID OFF...

※ JESUS'S FATHER GOD SENT A DOVE TO GUIDE HIM.

BUT AN ANIMAL THAT CAN BE MEAN TO BUDDHA?

MAYBE IF I CAN GET A **REAL** ANIMAL TO BE MEAN TO HIM, HE'LL STOP CARING ABOUT VIRTUAL ONES?

...OH! I KNOW. I'LL CALL DAD!!

KA-POP

Even drugged elephants like him...

DS for Adults

IF HE BRINGS IT TO THE REGISTER, IT'S ALL OVER...!!

I HAVE TO DO SOME-THING TO STOP HIM FROM WANTING TO BUY IT...

IF ANYONE CAN BE MEAN TO BUDDHA, IT'S DAD!!

Hey, come on! You shouldn't be in here.

NEW SUPER MARIO BROS.

WNN

THANKS, DAD!!

Brain Teaser Series

FLAP

FLAP

HM?

WHAT THE? A BEAUTIFUL WHITE DOVE... INSIDE THE STORE...

PERISH!

YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO TALK, DAD!!

OH... THE JIG'S ALREADY UP.

The Shakya people have already perished.

HUH? OH, IT'S JESUS'S DAD...

SHIRT: THE FIRST SEVEN STEPS

ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACH-THANI ...?

WHAT?! WHAT DID YOU EVEN COME HERE FOR?!

HUH?

WELL THEN, BUDDHA-KUN, LET THERE BE LIGHT!!

FLAP FLAP

I SEE... I WOULD EXPECT NOTHING LESS FROM A FRIEND OF MY BELOVED SON...

PECK HIM!! OR TACKLE HIM! OR SOMETHING!!

You're a dove!!

OH...OH, NO! HE'S COMING THIS WAY!!

UH...WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT...? OH WELL. I'LL JUST GO AHEAD AND BUY THIS...

HE ALREADY KNOWS IT'S ME... THIS IS DESTINY...

AND I'LL BE "THAT GUY WHO CAN WORK THE REGISTER WHILE LOOKING BACK-WARDS"!!

WHOOSH

YEAH. JUST LET MY HAIR FALL IN FRONT OF MY FACE...

...NO. THAT'S TOO FUNNY. I'D RATHER SAVE IT FOR THE STAGE.

Sigh...

BOSS ...

AAAAH! SHE'S GONE!!

IF HE FINDS ME HERE, THE SURPRISE WILL BE RUINED!!

MAYBE I CAN JUST HIDE MY FACE AND NOT SAY ANYTHING!

!!

OH! THERE YOU ARE. EXCUSE ME...

OF COURSE! THERE WERE MASKS OVER BY THE...

I'M SORRY... I HAVE REALLY BAD EYE-SIGHT...

WH-WHAT HAPPENED?! THIS LIGHT IS BLINDING ...!

はじめの一歩

TOO LATE! IT'S ALL OR NOTHING NOW!!

ACK?!

KA-FLASH

I APOLOGIZE FOR THE BACKLIGHT-ING.

I CAN'T WORK THE REGISTER WITHOUT SHINING A SEARCHLIGHT ON IT...

WOOOOOHH

IT IS NOTHING OF THE SORT. THIS IS MERELY THE POWER OF SCIENCE.

NO, SIR.

OOOOHH

IS THIS... A HALO ...?

YEAH. WE DEFINITELY MADE EYE CONTACT...

...SORRY. MY EYES ADJUSTED. I CAN SEE IT'S YOU.

Ohhh

ABOUT ¥100

OOOO

Out of 10,000 yen...

OH, I SEE...

NNNGH... HE FOUND OUT I'VE BEEN WORKING PART TIME!!

IT'S FINE. MY SHIFT WAS JUST ENDING...

WINTER

...BUT SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE STAYED AT WORK, JESUS?

...MAN, I WAS NOT EXPECTING TO SEE *YOU* AT THE REGISTER.

FISH

WAIT, IT COULD BE EVEN WORSE! HE MIGHT HAVE FIGURED OUT HIS PRESENT, TOO!

I know every-thing, Jesus.

BUDDHA'S SHARP. HE'S SURE TO FIGURE OUT ABOUT HIS SURPRISE PARTY...

WAIT RIGHT THERE A MINUTE. I'M GOING TO BORROW A DOLLY.

OH, WE'RE ALREADY AT THE STORE.

GO GET IT...?

SIGH... WELL, WHATEVER. WE'LL GO GET IT TOGETHER.

OF COURSE HE HAS. THERE'S ONLY ONE THING BUDDHA WOULD WANT THAT'S SO EXPENSIVE.

?

HUH? WHAT IS IT?

HERE. THIS IS FOR YOU!

Whew.

HUH?

WHAT IS IT? IT'S AN ISHIGAMA STEAM OVEN.

WHAT THE-?! THERE ARE FLOWERS BLOOMING IN YOUR FOOT-STEPS!

T-S-E-A-M?

WAUR

WAUR...

I-SHI-GA-MA

はじめの一歩

WHAT?! YOU LIKE IT?!

I... I'M SORRY. I WAS SO HAPPY, I JUST...!!

WAAH! WHERE DID THESE STRANGE BIRDS COME FROM?!

AH! A SHOE-BILL!!

THIS IS ON THE SAME LEVEL AS AN OFFICE WITH A LOT?!

HONESTLY, I'M AS HAPPY AS I WAS WHEN I WAS GIFTED JETA-VANA!

BUT THIS MUST HAVE COST A LOT OF MONEY!

ALL THINGS ARE IMPER-MANENT!!

THE PROS-PEROUS INEVITA-BLY DECLINE !!

SUCH A... MATERIAL POSSES-SION!!!

In a thousand years, it will be dust... In just one, it will be outdated!

YOU'RE SO HAPPY YOU HAVE TO START RECITING ENLIGHT-ENMENT LINGO?!

OF COURSE I LIKE IT.

CLING

NO

IT'S... IT'S SUCH A BEAUTI-FUL... SUCH A...

ISHIGAMA OVEN

AND I GOT TO SEE HOW HAPPY I MADE YOU. I REALLY GOT A LOT OUT OF THIS EXPERIENCE.

BUT MY JOB WAS A LOT OF FUN.

WH-WHAT? YOU ONLY JUST REALIZED?!

I always wondered why you were looking for one.

OH! *THAT'S* WHY YOU GOT A JOB...

I WAS SURE YOU'D ALREADY FIGURED OUT THE WHOLE THING...

THANK YOU SO MUCH, JESUS.

OH, PLEASE! I CAN MAKE THE FOOD MYSELF, WITH THIS!

ISHIGAMA OVEN

BUT I DIDN'T GET AROUND TO PLANNING A SPECIAL DINNER OR A CAKE, SO THAT'S ALL I HAVE FOR YOU...

BUT YOU WERE JUST SAYING THAT ALL LIFE SHOULD BE JUST AS VALUED AND HONORED AS YOURS, WEREN'T YOU?

YEAH ...

RATTLE

RATTLE

REMEMBER HOW, RIGHT AFTER I WAS BORN, I SAID, "HOLY AM I ALONE THROUGHOUT HEAVEN AND EARTH"?

SHIRT: MOUNTAIN PERSON

HEE HEE. THEY'RE JUST SHOWING HOW MUCH THEY AP-PRECIATE YOU.

ALL MY LIFE, ALL I'D GET ON MY BIRTHDAY WAS TEA DUMPED ON ME...

By the Devas...

NO, THEY'RE NOT...

EVERYONE GOES THROUGH A PHASE WHEN THEY'RE YOUNG, YOU KNOW?

Like an identity crisis.

...YOU WERE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON, HUH?

...

HUSH

THEY'RE SAYING, "WHY DON'T WE COOL YOUR HEAD A BIT?"

Holy am I alone throughout Heaven and—

SPLAAASH

SO THE SWEET TEA ISN'T THEIR WAY OF CELEBRATING MY BIRTH...

B... BUDDHA ...?

EVEN I'M ASHAMED OF THAT PART OF MY PERSONAL HISTORY... AND THEY HAVE TO RUB IT IN MY FACE EVERY TIME MY BIRTHDAY COMES AROUND...

...IT WAS JUST THE CONCEIT OF YOUTH...

GRIND GRIND GRIND GRIND

BRAHMA-SAN ACTUALLY BOUGHT A WATER GUN JUST TO...

KA-CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP

AND WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT? JUST TODAY ...

*A DEMON, KIND OF THE OPPOSITE OF A DEVA

ALTHOUGH THE RICE THEY ATE THAT NIGHT WAS DELICIOUS, THAT DELICIOUSNESS INSPIRED FEAR IN JESUS'S HEART.

HE HAD A FACE LIKE AN ASURA...*

Aahh...

WHEW, COOKING REALLY DOES EMPTY THE MIND...

DING!

Nintendo DS Game Software Survey

Q1. Please tell us the game you purchased.

Puppy and Me: Shiba Inu

Q2. On average, how many games do you play in a year?

❶ 1-2 ❷ 3-4 ❸ 5-6 ❹ 7 or more

Q3. Please tell us what gaming platform you use the most.

Nintendo DS

Q4. Please give this game a score from 0 to 100, 100 being best.

	7	0

points

Q5. Please tell use what you liked about this game.

-The graphics were beautiful. -I liked that the dog would bark.
-The natural way the puppy moved.

Q6. Please tell us what you did not like about this game.

-The dog got attached to me too quickly. -I wish it wouldn't show me its belly so readily.
-There's no sense of wildness from the dog. -It hesitates before it bites me.

Q7. Please tell us if you have any other thoughts, opinions, requests, or suggestions in regard to this game.

I think that beauty can be found in the eyes of an animal that is not pandering to humans. I would like to see actions from the dog that show me it feels hostility or caution around me (growling, biting like it wants to, breaking its chains and running off, etc.). Why not use a wild dog for a motif? Anyway, I know this game is made for casual gamers, but having the dog come when you call, practically from the start of the game–that's just way too easy. Personally, I think it would feel more real if, at the beginning of the game, you can call it again and again and it won't even look at you, and if you get close to it, it growls and runs away. We're dealing with wild animals here.

Thank you for your cooperation.

I know I wrote a lot, but I'm just considering the potential of the software. I have high hopes for a sequel.

SAINT YOUNG MEN

THEY WERE MADE FROM SCRAPS OF CLOTH FOUND DISCARDED IN GRAVEYARDS AND SIMILAR PLACES, WHICH THEY CLEANED AND SEWED TOGETHER.

BUDDHA AND HIS DISCIPLES WORE ROBES CALLED PAMSU-KULA.

THIS *IS* THE MODERN-DAY PAMSU-KULA.

I MARVEL EVERY TIME I SEE IT...

THE SAME GARMENT WOULD BE PATCHED UP AGAIN AND AGAIN, AND WORN FOR YEARS.

AND THIS ONE. THE WAY THE HOLE WAS TORN...

WAS THE OWNER PERSE-CUTED?!

...WHOA! IS THIS... A BLOOD STAIN...?!

It's kind of pinkish...

HA HA HA, THAT'S PROBABLY FROM SITTING UNDER WATERFALLS TOO LONG!

THE COLOR IS FADED BEYOND RECOGNI-TION.

I WONDER HOW MANY YEARS THIS HAS BEEN WORN ...

OH, LOOK. THERE'S A NAME SEWN IN HERE...

THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS PRAY FOR THEM...

BASED ON THE AMOUNT OF BLOOD AND THE SIZE OF THE HOLE... PROBABLY.

...HM?

MAY LEE-SAN AND EDWIN-SAN FOREVER REST IN PEACE...

EDWIN

Lee

21

?!

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 25

Dress You, My Child!

BUDDHA: ALWAYS BRINGS A GLOVE TO WATCH PROFES-SIONAL BASEBALL GAMES, SO HE'LL BE READY TO CATCH HOME RUNS.

YEAH... THAT'S WHY I WAS HOPING I COULD FIND SOMETHING EVEN MORE RAGGED THIS TIME...

HE SEWED THEM UP?!

I can't even tell where it was mended...

BUT ONCE I SEWED THEM, THEY WERE TOTALLY FINE FOR WEARING!

THERE WERE HOLES IN THE LAST PAIR OF JEANS I BOUGHT, TOO.

LOVE ME

SHIRT: CLAY BIRD

JESUS: WORE A HELMET TO A PROFES-SIONAL BASEBALL GAME IN CASE OF FOUL BALLS, BUT HE WORRIED FOR NOTHING.

THIS GUY SURE ASKS FOR A LOT OF ALMS...

NO KIDDING ...

¥76,800

THESE PRICES ARE CERTAIN-LY SKY HIGH ...

WERE THE MORE BEAT-UP PAIRS WORN BY HIGHER RANKING PRIESTS?

*ABOUT $768

SHIRT: GOLDEN DEER

IF WE NEED TO, WE CAN GET THE HEAVENS TO PAY FOR THESE JEANS.

THERE, THERE...

UUUGH, BUT MAN, THESE UNEXPECTED EXPENSES ARE REALLY HURTING US...

?!

Oh! Good luck with your ascetic training!

THIS ISN'T WORKING. LET'S TRY A DIFFERENT SHOP!

YEAH... AND I MENTIONED THAT TO THEM A LITTLE WHILE AGO...

I don't have a belt, so I have to use a cord to keep them up...

THAT STRETCHED OUT YOUR JEANS AND MADE THEM TOO LOOSE TO WEAR.

SINCE IT WAS THE DEVAS WHO PLUMPED YOU UP SO SUDDENLY.

I'm really impressed that you lose the weight every time.

GOOD IDEA. I WANT TO SPEND AS LITTLE MONEY AS POSSIBLE.

ISN'T THERE ANYONE WHO CAN PROTECT YOU FROM THE DEVAS?!

BUT THEY JUST SAID, "IF YOUR JEANS ARE TOO LOOSE, YOU JUST NEED TO GET FAT AGAIN." ...AND THEN THEY MADE ME FAT AGAIN.

BUT THERE'S NO REASON TO RISK THEM TURNING *YOU* INTO *HANPEN* FISH CAKES.

Fish Cake Jesus

...I APPRECI-ATE THE THOUGHT, JESUS...

O-OKAY. NEXT TIME, I'LL GO WITH YOU AND TALK TO THEM MYSELF...

I REMEMBER. YOU USED TO THINK A FABRIC STORE *WAS* A CLOTHING STORE.

Hmm, I think about this much?

RATTLE RATTLE

In Yuzawaya...

I REALLY STRUGGLED, NOT KNOWING THE CURRENT FASHION TRENDS OF THE MORTAL REALM.

NO KIDDING. I HAD THE SAME PROBLEM WHEN I BOUGHT A COAT.

ARE YOU SURE?

FOR NOW, WE JUST NEED TO FIND SOME PLACE WE CAN BUY JEANS CHEAP.

HA HA HA...

IT'S TRUE, A LOT OF THESE CLOTHES ARE PRETTY FAR OUT THERE.

SOME OF THESE ARE SO COLORFUL, I WONDER IF THEY WERE DESIGNED TO WARD OFF PREDATORS.

THERE ARE A LOT OF UNCON-VENTIONAL COLORS AND SHAPES.

BUT THERE ARE SO MANY DIFFERENT STORES, I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO.

YEAH, THE PAPAL GUARD UNIFORMS ARE PRACTICALLY SCREAMING, "LOOK AT ME!"

BUT COMPARED TO THE UNIFORMS AT THE VATICAN, THEY'RE STILL PRETTY TAME.

CLOTHING - GENTLEMEN

WHAT? REALLY?

ACTUALLY, I WAS MORE PARTICULAR ABOUT CLOTHING *AFTER* I TOOK THE TONSURE...

YEAH, REALLY.

金の鹿

I WORE ENTIRE ENSEMBLES MADE ONLY OF KASHI FABRIC...

It just feels different!

Kashi Brand From head to toe.

I WAS PICKY ABOUT WHAT I WORE WHEN I WAS A KID, TOO.

...NO...

WELL, YOU *ARE* A PRINCE.

OF COURSE YOU WERE GOING TO BE THAT WAY BEFORE YOU RENOUNCED THE WORLD.

BUT ONLY ABOUT CLOTHES.

Heh heh...

MAN, I WAS REALLY PICKY...

...NOTHING WILL EVER CONVINCE ME TO WEAR CLOTHES.

MY THINKING WAS...

OR MAYBE IT'S JUST THAT YOU GET MORE REBELLIOUS ABOUT FASHION WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG.

I WAS LIKE, "CLOTHING IN AND OF ITSELF DE-FILES US!"

I GUESS IT WAS KIND OF A PUNK PHASE.

YOU'RE A GOD-TIER FASHIONI-STA!

After I gained enlightenment, I just naturally realized that it's better to wear them.

ANYWAY, IT'S SOMETHING EVERY-ONE GOES THROUGH IN LIFE.

YEAH, I'M NOT SEEING ANYTHING...

...HM?

HMM, AREN'T THERE ANY CHEAP STORES AROUND HERE?

WHAT?! THEN WE CAN BUY SOMETHING FOR YOU, TOO!

IT SAYS BUY ONE, GET THE SECOND FOR JUST A THOUSAND YEN*!!

WHOA! I JUST FOUND SOME-THING AMAZING!

*ABOUT $10

OH, ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A SUIT?

AND BESIDES, THIS STORE IS THE LAST THING WE NEED...

A SUIT IS A MAN'S BATTLE DRESS... YES...!

BUT WE DON'T WANT WARS, JESUS!

Konako Suits

New Job Sale: Buy One Suit, Get Second for ¥1000

A NEW JOB SALE...

WITH YOUR FIGURE, I'M SURE ANY OF THESE WOULD LOOK WONDERFUL ON YOU!

NO, WE WERE JUST WINDOW SHOP-PING...

THEN YOU'VE NEVER BOUGHT A SUIT BEFORE?

WOW! I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT SUITS COULD BE SO AFFORDABLE.

A Man's Suit

Maybe I've lost weight ...?

I WOULD RECOMMEND HAVING A SUIT ON HAND FOR MEETING OUTSIDE CLIENTS.

EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE AT THE WORK-PLACE...

SO COMFY...

NEVER. AT WORK, THE DRESS CODE IS PRETTY LOOSE...

WHOA, THEY LOOK SO COOL!!

N-NO, BUT...

THE FITTING ROOMS ARE THIS WAY.

WHAT ABOUT THESE TWO SUITS, SIRS?

Excuse me, do you have a minute to hear my divine message?

THERE'S AN IDEA ...

MAYBE I'LL WEAR A SUIT FOR THE SECOND COMING.

PEOPLE WILL JUST THINK YOU'RE A DRUNK BUSINESSMAN WANDERING INTO THEIR HOMES.

Oh, no.

AND, HEY! DON'T TEAR YOUR SUIT ON THOSE THORNS!

OH, PLEASE. YOU'RE JUST IN COSPLAY MODE NOW!

WE CAN AT LEAST TRY THEM ON, CAN'T WE?!

OH, GOOD THINKING. THAT MIGHT WORK.

...DO YOU THINK MAYBE WE CAN CONVINCE MATSUDA-SAN THAT WE'RE NOT NEETS?

YOU KNOW, I HAVE AN IDEA. IF WE WEAR THESE OUT OF THE APARTMENT A FEW TIMES...

WELL, YOU SEE, JESUS-SAMA...

I DID ASK THE ARCHANGELS ONCE HOW THEY DID IT...

WAIT. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TIE THIS...

I MEAN, NECKTIES AND STUFF MAKE PEOPLE LOOK REALLY RESPECT-ABLE...

SURE. WATCH CLOSELY.

IT GOES LIKE THIS...

YEAH, SORT OF. I SAW BRAHMA-SAN DOING IT...

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO TIE A TIE?

THEN WOULD YOU MIND HELPING ME OUT?

...YOU SNAP IT ONTO YOUR COLLAR WITH THIS BUTTON HERE.

Attempting a normal tie.

BUDDHA!

OH YEAH. *THEY* WERE FAILING PRETTY EPICALLY, TOO...

BAM

SA!

BA-
BAM

RY!

BAM

LA!

KATSU
!!!

MAN!

S-SORRY, COULD YOU SHOW ME AGAIN?!

UH, WHA—

APPAR-ENTLY, MASTER-ING THE TECHNIQUE REQUIRES SOLITARY MOUNTAIN TRAINING.

Uno más!!

Now you try!

THAT IS THE MUDRA SEQUENCE KNOWN AS "NECKTIE ARRANG-ING."

AND THERE YOU HAVE IT...

FSHHHHH
ﾌｼｭｰｳｳｳ

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A BUSINESS-MAN'S OUTFIT SO MUCH AS...

EH HEH HEH...

WOW, DON'T YOU LOOK AMAZING!

YEAH, WE SHOULD BUY THESE NEXT TIME WE GET A CHANCE.

SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?

TUG

キュッ...

...MY COSTUME FOR MAN PERM AND HIPPIE.

WAIT, UNDERWEAR? YOU'RE NOT GONNA BUY IT FROM THE BARGAIN BIN AGAIN, ARE YOU?

YEAH. WHY? IS THAT A PROBLEM?

WE STILL HAVE A BUNCH OF LITTLE THINGS TO BUY TODAY, LIKE UNDERWEAR AND STUFF.

*ABOUT $5

AWW, I WANTED TO WEAR IT ON THE TRAIN AT RUSH HOUR...

Konako Suits

I look forward to seeing you again!

粘土の雀

BARGAIN BIN

OOH! I CAN GET THREE PAIRS FROM THIS BIN FOR 500 YEN*!!

NOT NECESSARILY, BUT...

Three pairs / ¥500

ACK! THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING—YOU ALWAYS GO FOR THE CHEAPEST BINS...

UGH, JUST BORROW A SUIT FROM ONE OF THE ARCHANGELS.

IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE'S ACTUALLY GOING TO SEE THEM, SO WHY NOT?

This way I never mix mine up with yours...

There, you see?!

Sapporo underpants

BUT I JUST DON'T KNOW IF YOU SHOULD GET THOSE FREAKY DESIGNS JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE ON SALE!

UNDERWEAR: SAPPORO NUMBER 1

BUT MOST OF THE SOCKS YOU PICK OUT ARE MARKETED TOWARD HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS...

LOOK WHO'S TALKING. I DON'T THINK YOU'VE REALIZED...

OH! THESE SOCKS ARE CUTE.

THEY MIGHT, LIKE AT THE BATH-HOUSE ...

WHAT?! FOR A WHOLE LITER BOTTLE?!

100

TEA

TEA

TEA

¥100

HM? WHAT'S THAT? SOFT DRINKS FOR 100 YEN...

*ABOUT $1

BUT MAN...

YES! I GOT IT ALL FOR UNDER TWO THOUSAND YEN!

That will be 1820 yen.

BUDDHA!!! LOOK, I FOUND THE MOST AMAZING STORE!!

WHAT IS IT? WHY ARE YOU SHOUTING LIKE THAT?

WHOOSH

WHOA! THESE TOWELS ARE ONLY 100 YEN, TOO...

WHAT *IS* THIS PLACE ...?

?!

THESE CHEAP PLACES REALLY *ARE* CHEAP...

100 YEN SHOP LOVELY

EVERYTHING FOR 100 YEN!!

ONE COIN SHOP

ALL ¥100 !!

HEH HEH HEH...

ポン PAT

ポン PAT

HEH...

IT SAYS EVERY-THING COSTS 100 YEN*!

HERE! RIGHT HERE!!

HOW...? HOW CAN THEY SELL THESE THINGS FOR ONLY 100 YEN?!

OH... I GUESS THOSE FOREIGN FOLKS HAVE NEVER BEEN IN A 100-YEN SHOP BEFORE.

They look better than the ones we have at home!

WHAT...? BUT IT MAKES NO SENSE...

LOOK AT THESE KITCHEN SHEARS!

I KNOW ...

AND LOOK AT THIS QUALITY PLATE!

NO! IT'S REAL!

BEGONE, MARA!

DO YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD FALL FOR A HALLUCINATION LIKE THAT?

MARA-SAN WAS FRAMED!

THEY ...

...COMPREHEND THE MIND OF A BUDDHA...?!

NOD NOD

DON'T YOU WORRY. IT'S ALL JUST ONE COIN.

SFF

THIS STORE IS YOUR REWARD FOR MAKING IT THROUGH THE YEAR 2000!

GOOD FOR YOU, BUDDHA!

ｸﾞｽｯ SNIFFLE

NNGH... JESUS... I SEE THAT THIS IS ANOTHER PLACE WHERE MY TEACHINGS LIVE ON...

IS HE CRYING ?!

HEY, JUST A... THERAPEUTIC? BUT...

HUH?!

PLASTIC

HOW SOOTHING!!

LET'S BUY IT! OH! THESE ARE THERAPEUTIC MINICACTI...

YOINK

TOSS

WE CAN BUY ANYTHING HERE AND NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT.

YOU HAVE RAPHAEL-SAN TO HEAL YOU. WHY WOULD YOU NEED A CACTUS?

...

YOU SPEND ALL DAY EVERY DAY LYING AROUND IN THERAPEUTIC BOREDOM...

金の鹿

WHOA! IT SAYS IT'S A THERAPEUTIC AROMA POT!

BUBBLE BUBBLE Foaming Net

NO-SLIP GLOVES

CLOTH

2-pack

OOOHH! IT SAYS THIS STICKER ABSORBS ELECTRO-MAGNETIC WAVES!!

PLEASE CONTINUE ...

GRIN

WELL, OKAY. SINCE THEY'RE ONLY A HUNDRED YEN.

金の鹿

WHAT'S THIS 1000-YEN CORNER...?

HUH?

JUST A THOUSAND YEN! ¥1000 CORNER

OH, MAN. THERE'S SO MUCH STUFF HERE, I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN.

WOW. I DIDN'T KNOW THEY COULD MAKE ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL JEANS.

...NO, THEY'RE NOT TOO TIGHT. ...IN FACT...

HOW ARE THEY, BUDDHA? NOT TOO TIGHT?

THAT WILL BE FINE!!

WE DON'T TAKE RETURNS HERE. IS THAT ALL RIGHT?

NOD NOD

One-Size-Fits-All Jeans

AND SO ...

One-Size-Fits-All Jeans

One size fits all?!

WHAT?! *JEANS?!* FOR ONE THOUSAND YEN?!

...THEY HAVE AN ELASTIC WAIST-BAND...

IT LOOKS LIKE...

YEAH. THEY'RE SUPER COMFY.

KA-SNAP

...I-IS THAT A PROBLEM? IT SEEMS COMFY...

...

ONE WEEK LATER

BRUSH

BRUSH

SHIRT: KANDATA

...THE ONE-COIN POISON SPREADS SLOWLY.

UH! SURE, GO AHEAD...

Is it still thera-peutic?

...JESUS, DO YOU MIND IF I USE THIS FOR MY TOOTH-BRUSH STAND?

AND THAT'S THE PROB-LEM!

NO! THIS JUST MEANS YOU'LL ALWAYS HAVE JEANS TO WEAR NO MATTER *HOW* FAT YOU GET!

AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'VE LOST SOMEHOW!!

Aaah! It's so easy to crouch down!!

...I think maybe he actually *likes* these designs.
UNDERWEAR: FÖRIN KAZAN
CAT

SAINT YOUNG MEN

THE PLANTS DRINK THEIR FILL OF THE WATER POURED UPON THEM FROM THE HEAVENS...

THE RAINY SEASON BRINGS BLESSINGS THAT CULTIVATE LIFE.

BUDDHA! THERE'S AN OVERHANG OVER THERE!

...AS THEY WAIT FOR THE COMING SEASON OF SUNSHINE.

...

AND HERE I HAD SUCH AWESOME BED HAIR TODAY...

Sigh...

OH, MAN. I THOUGHT IT *WASN'T* GOING TO RAIN TODAY...

PROTECT YOU...? IS SATAN OUT TO GET YOU OR SOME-THING?

NOW, WHEN IT GETS WET, IT GROWS THICKER TO PROTECT ME.

UH, WELL...

HUH?

HUH? *THIS* IS BED HAIR?

YOINK

OH! I FORGOT! I ASKED MICHAEL TO REMODEL MY CROWN!!

UUUGH, I'M ALREADY PRETTY SOAKED.

JUST HOW SENSITIVE ARE YOUR EYES?!

THIS SATAN GOES BY THE NAME OF "SHAMPOO BUBBLES!"

SHIRT: BATTLE OF WILLS

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 26

July 1: Sunshine After the Rain

BUDDHA: WHEN HE THINKS OF FROGS, HE THINKS OF THE GUTSY FROG.

WE COULD BUY UMBRELLAS FOR 100 YEN AND POWER THROUGH, BUT I DON'T WANT TO.

ZSHHHH

BUT WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? WE WERE PLANNING TO GO FOR A WALK IN THE PARK...

JESUS: ONCE UPDATED HIS BLOG LATE BECAUSE HE WAS SO BUSY TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT COLOR THE DARK-SPOTTED FROG IS.

OH, SORRY. IT'S DESIGNED SO THE LEAVES FALL OUT WHEN IT GETS DRY.

WHOA! THAT SCARED ME!!

FWOOSH

ISN'T THERE SOMETHING FUN WE COULD DO THAT WOULD GET US *OUT* OF THE RAIN...?

WHAT?! REALLY?!

YOU ALWAYS SAY TICKET PRICES ARE TOO HIGH, AND YOU'D RATHER WATCH ON DVD...

And look! There's a theater right there.

HEY, WHY DON'T WE GO TO THE MOVIES?

THE NEWEST *008* IS OUT NOW!

I JUST GOT REALLY EXCITED WHEN I WAS WATCHING *008* THE OTHER DAY, SO...

ISN'T IT COOL? LIKE A MULTI-USE GADGET.

I don't think James Pond would need a shampoo visor...

OH YEAH, IT WAS THE FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIE.

OH!

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

OKAY, I'LL GO BUY THE TICKETS!

THEN I'LL GET THE POPCORN. I'LL STAND IN LINE NOW.

RIGHT, A THOUSAND YEN IS AS HIGH AS YOU'LL GO...

YOU'RE RIGHT. IF IT WEREN'T THE FIRST OF THE MONTH, I WOULDN'T BE CAUGHT DEAD AT THE MOVIES.

It's cheap movie day...

SO THIS ONE TAKES PLACE AT THE BEACH...

OOHH, THAT TRAILER LOOKS REALLY COOL.

THANK YOU.

ONE COLA AND ONE OOLONG TEA. THANKS FOR WAITING!

OKAY, THAT'S ONE HALF-SALT, HALF-CARAMEL POPCORN,

IT *WAS!* I TOTALLY DID NOT EXPECT THAT TWIST!!

AAAHHH, THAT MOVIE WAS SO GOOD!!

BUZZ

I THINK IT'S ONLY POLITE TO THE CREATORS TO GO IN WITH-OUT ALREADY KNOWING WHAT HAPPENS.

BUZZ

OH, BUT... I'D BETTER NOT WATCH THAT.

NO, FORGET ABOUT IT. I DOUBT IT'S AN IMPORTANT KEY WORD TO THE STORY.

B-DMP

B-DMP

WAIT, BUT WHAT'S THIS ABOUT AN OTTER?!

What kind of plot twist is that?!

WHEW... THAT WAS CLOSE. I ALMOST HEARD A SPOILER...

BUDDHA'S MULTI-USE GADGET

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD END WITH THE OTTER...

GRAM

GRAM

I GOT SO EXCITED WATCHING THE TRAILER...

LOOK AT THIS, BUDDHA !!

THEY WIPE OUT ALL THREE OF MY BUDDHA FACES IN ONE GO.

PHEW... I HATE SPOIL-ERS.

BUZZ

BUZZ

BUZZ

THAT I WENT AHEAD AND BOUGHT THE MOVIE PAMPHLET!

Death of a Loved One

A Brother's Betrayal

OKAY, THEY'RE GONE...

BUZZ

SPOONK

NOISE-CANCELING EARLOBES: ACTIVATE!

EEEK?!

YOU HEATHEN!!!

Quantum of Cockleshells

BAAAM

...

POOF

POOF

NO, THAT IS CLEARLY NOT THE NUANCE YOU WERE GOING FOR!!

That's all I meant ...

IN THE LITERAL SENSE. IT JUST MEANS THAT YOU'RE NOT A PRACTITIONER OF MY FAITH...

UH...

HUFF

HUFF

UH... WHAT?

DID YOU JUST... CALL ME A HEATHEN ...?!

OH... NO, I MEANT ...

MY DAD SPOILS THINGS ALL THE TIME...

I GUESS I'M JUST USED TO IT...

SHUDDER

OH YEAH, YOU ALWAYS READ THE LAST CHAPTER OF A MYSTERY NOVEL FIRST...

UH, WELL, I DON'T MIND SPOILERS...

How can you even look at it, let alone buy it, before you've seen the movie?!

WELL, COME ON...

PAMPHLETS ARE A TREASURE TROVE OF SPOILERS!

IT'S JUST ONE SPOILERIFIC PROPHECY AFTER ANOTHER!

You know, when the Kingdom of Heaven comes? It's gonna be amazing. There will be fire and hail, all kinds of stuff falling from the sky. I think it's gonna blow your mind.

What!

GIVING AWAY THE LAST SCENE OF THE WHOLE WORLD...

OH! THAT REMINDS ME, YOU'D BETTER NOT READ THE BIBLE.

TERMINATOR

Ore wa mata ore o

AND *THEN*, HE PUTS IT ALL IN A BOOK...

YEAH. SOUNDS LIKE THAT GOES WAY BEYOND MOVIE PAMPHLETS.

ESPECIALLY THE OLD TESTAMENT. YOU SHOULD WAIT TO READ THAT UNTIL AFTER THE END COMES!

I HAVE BEEN TO THE MOVIES WITH MY DISCIPLES...

YEAH.

I hope my ushnisha* doesn't block the people behind me.

COME TO THINK OF IT, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN TO A MOVIE THEATER WITH YOU, ISN'T IT?

*THE FLESHY PROTUBERANCE ON BUDDHA'S HEAD

YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY METICULOUS WHEN IT COMES TO CHECKING OUT YOUR OWN BIOGRAPHIES!

My disciples were all like, "We can't miss *this* one!" and we came to Earth just to see it...

BUT NOT SINCE WE ALL WENT TO SEE *LITTLE BUDDHA.*

RIGHT, THE CLIMAX OF YOUR STORY'S GOING TO TURN OUT LIKE THAT NO MATTER WHAT.

The *trailer* for *The Passion* made me faint...

BUT I REALLY CAN'T HANDLE GORE OR MOVIES WITH A LOT OF PAIN...

I can't do it.

WELL, OF COURSE, I HAVE TO KNOW IF MY TEACHINGS ARE BEING CONVEYED PROPERLY.

Not that I'd complain if they weren't...

GOOD POINT. I KNOW I *SHOULD* WATCH THE MOVIES ABOUT ME...

WHAT? WELL, WE'RE NOT BUYING ONE!

FOR JUST ABOUT 10,000 YEN, YOU CAN RECREATE THE MOVIE THEATER EXPERIENCE.

...really cheap now...

They're

BESIDES, IF YOU WANT "THE FULL EXPERIENCE" ...

OH! THAT REMINDS ME, DID YOU KNOW THEY HAVE HOME PROJECTORS NOW?!

AND MOVIE THEATERS THESE DAYS HAVE GOTTEN REALLY IMMERSIVE ...

BUT THE ONLY MOVIES AVAILABLE ARE HORROR!

WHOOOSH

...MARA'S ILLUSIONS HAVE TOP NOTCH VIDEO AND SOUND QUALITY.

F*CK

BOOOOOM

IT'S STARTING!

OH! THE LIGHTS ARE DIMMING!

...MAYBE IF I ASK *REALLY* NICELY, I COULD GET HIM TO REPLAY A TV DRAMA FOR ME...

THIS FEELS LIKE REALLY HIGH QUALITY FABRIC.

WE WEREN'T EVEN PLANNING TO SEE A MOVIE. YOU'RE REALLY PREPARED FOR ANYTH...

SO USE THIS IF YOU WANT.

MOVIE THEATERS GET COLD.

WOW, THANKS, BUDDHA!

DUM-DUM DUM-DUM DUM-DUM DUM-DUM DUM-DUM ?!

I HOPE THIS MOVIE DOESN'T START WITH A FANFARE.

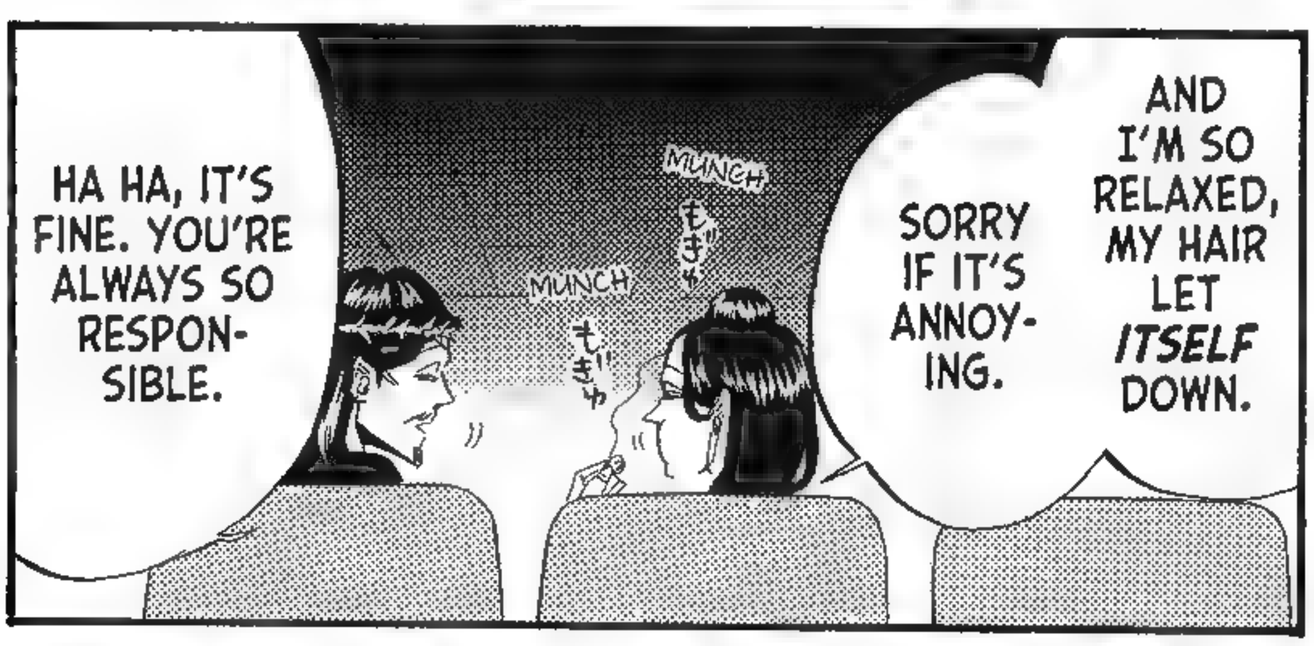
When we came to see Star Wars, the opening started and the archangels jumped right into work mode.

JESUS.

PSST PSST PSST

X
40

YEAH. I THINK THIS IS WHAT IT WOULD FEEL LIKE TO BE WRAPPED IN KINDNESS...
But you did kinda scare me!
SO? DO YOU THINK IT WILL HELP?


HA HA, IT'S FINE. YOU'RE ALWAYS SO RESPON-SIBLE.
MUNCH
もぎゃ
MUNCH
もぎゃ
SORRY IF IT'S ANNOY-ING.
AND I'M SO RELAXED, MY HAIR LET *ITSELF* DOWN.

NO, IT'LL BE FINE.
BUT IS IT REALLY A GOOD IDEA? WON'T IT ATTRACT MARA-SAN?
He turns his phone all the way off.
HE'S A REAL STICKLER FOR FOLLOWING THE RULES OF ETIQUETTE IN PUBLIC PLACES LIKE MOVIE THEATERS.

HEY...
TUG
TUG
THIS IS REALLY STARTING TO PULL ON ME.
I THINK SINCE WE CUT YOUR HAIR, IT'S NOT QUITE LONG ENOUGH TO...

TUG
IT'S OKAY ONCE IN A WHILE TO...
HM...?
TUG

FLOOOOSH

わし

わし

AAAAHH.

HEY, JESUS. PASS ME THE COLA.

DON'T LET YOUR RELAXATION LEVELS GET SKY HIGH, BUDDHA!

わし RUFFLE

わし RUFFLE

わし RUFFLE

THIS SHELL IS AT THE BOTTOM OF NAPLES BAY.

...THAT WHEN THE OTTER GETS BACK,

MUUU-SIIIC

WE SHOULD MAKE SURE...

...SUCH A NOBLE OTTER...

BUZZ

WALLA

WALLA

WALLA

Right?

BUZZ

That was so good!

HEY, JESUS, LET'S FIND SOME PLACE TO SIT AND TALK ABOUT THAT OTTER...

...JE-SUS?

SQUEEEEAK!!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THE OTTER TOOK THE WHEEL IN THAT LAST SCENE...

AND DROVE STRAIGHT INTO THE OCEAN...

Now that I've seen the movie, I could talk with those young ladies for five hours.

THAT WAS SO GOOD, I WOULD HAVE BEEN WILLING TO PAY FULL PRICE TO SEE IT.

OH WELL.

I GUESS WE'LL TAKE SHELTER IN A FAMILY RESTAU-RANT...

AH!

Oh, no! It's still raining!

WHY DO YOU LOOK SO GRIM AND HARD-ENED?

SWOON

THEY'RE RIGHT. IT'S COMING DOWN EVEN HARDER THAN BEFORE.

SHHHH

TTTTTTT

...AND WAIT FOR IT TO LET—

JESUS. COME BACK TO ME! AND I MEAN THAT LITERALLY *AND* FIGURATIVELY!

Your shampoo visor is out!

IT'S JUST LIKE THE STORM RAGING IN MY FREAKIN' HEART, AFTER LOSING THAT OTTER...

THIS RAIN...

HNNGH, BUT USUALLY WHEN I'M OUT IN THE RAIN TOO LONG...

UGH, FINE! I'M COMING!

OTTER?! OTTER?!

NIRVANA

WH... WHAT! JUST A—

COME, BROTHER! LET US RUN TO OUR SECOND BETHLEHEM!!

...YOU CANNOT HIDE FROM LIFE UNDERNEATH AN UMBRELLA!

AND MUCALINDA-KUN IS THE ONE IN CHARGE OF KEEPING ME DRY...

SPLASH

THE ANIMALS WILL COME TO GIVE ME SHELTER.

SPLASH

YOU'RE THE FOUNDER OF A RELIGION— YOU CAN'T LET THINGS AFFECT YOU THAT EASILY!

DASH

THEY WON'T JUST TRY TO GET ME MEDICAL TREATMENT— THEY'LL CALL THE RIOT SQUAD...

BUT HE DOES IT SO THOR-OUGHLY...

IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S HAVING ME FOR DINNER.

GOOD. HE'S NOT *SO* WILD THAT HE'S IGNORING TRAFFIC LIGHTS.

STARE

GASP!

BUT HE'S SO FAR GONE, HE'S USING WORDS LIKE "FREAKIN'".

IF I LOSE SIGHT OF HIM, HE MIGHT GET RECKLESS AND HURT HIMSELF.

OH! THERE YOU ARE! JESUS!

OH, HONESTLY ...

MR. OTTER !!

EWWWW!!

!!!

JESUS.

I THINK IT WOULD ONLY BE RIGHT TO GRANT THAT OTTER SAINT-HOOD...

HUH? THE RAIN IS STOPPING...

LOOK, I HAVE A PLASTIC BAG. YOU CAN PUT IT IN HERE.

YOUR PAMPHLET'S GONNA GET WET.

THERE'S A RAINBOW!

WOW, LOOK, JESUS!

UH... YEAH...

THAT'S ONE MY DAD MADE...

SORRY

Seriously, please never do that again!!

THAT HE WOULD NEVER FLOOD THE WHOLE EARTH AGAIN.

TO SHOW EVERY-ONE HE REMEMBERS HIS PROMISE ...

OH, OR IS THAT ONE YOUR FATHER MADE?

FLUTTER

The rainbow we took down here was beautiful, too.

I WONDER IF ANOTHER SAINT CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN...

FLUTTER.

WELL, ONLY THE ARCHANGELS CAN READ IT, SO YOU'LL BE FINE.

UGH! HE DIDN'T HAVE TO PUT IT UP THERE WHERE EVERYBODY CAN SEE IT!!

CHILL OUT

BUT THIS TIME, THE RAINBOW MESSAGE ...

IS TELLING ME TO STOP CAUSING YOU SO MUCH STRESS... SO YEAH...

OH, MINE CAN'T EITHER. SEE?

MY DAD CAN'T EVEN SEND A TEXT.

BUT, WOW. EVEN THE LITTLE MESSAGES FROM YOUR DAD ARE SPEC-TACULAR.

HE USES IT FOR PERSONAL MESSAGES, TOO?!

THIS FROM THE GUY WHO CAN MAKE THE WORLD IN SEVEN DAYS...

I GUESS IT WAS TOO MUCH EFFORT TO BOTHER WITH CAPITAL LETTERS AND PUNCTUA-TION...

I think he was trying to say he liked my blog...

It's cute...

Inbox
From Dad
Sub Let there be light
i saw your internet it was very good
Menu Back

APPARENTLY IT TOOK HIM A WHOLE DAY...

...JUST TO TYPE THIS MESSAGE.

LET ME SEE THE PAMPHLET WHEN WE GET HOME, OKAY?

OH, IT'S FINE. I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.

I JUST HADN'T SEEN ANYTHING ON THE BIG SCREEN IN SO LONG, I GOT OVER-EXCITED...

ANYWAY, I REALLY AM SORRY.

I WAS DRYING SOME FRESHLY PRINTED SILKSCREEN T-SHIRTS, TOO!

BAM

HUH? WHAT? WHAT'S WRONG?

STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP

IT LOOKS LIKE THE WEATHER IS GOING TO BE REALLY NICE, SO WHEN WE GET HOME, I CAN HANG THE LAUNDRY...

HA!

PHWAH

BUT WITH THAT RAIN, THEY'LL BE RUINED...

HUH...?

OH, RIGHT! YOU HUNG THE LAUNDRY OUT TO DRY BEFORE WE LEFT!

...

WHY ISN'T ANYTHING W—?

UNDERWEAR: BEWARE OF FIRE

HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT I WOULD BE MORE UPSET ABOUT THE CLOTHES GETTING WET?!

...I *WONDERED* WHY YOU DIDN'T COME FIND ME.

AFTER SOME DELIBERATION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO EAT THE APPLES, THEY COMPROMISED BY TURNING THEM INTO JAM.

...?!

SEE? HE EVEN BROUGHT US SOME APPLES...

APPLES

OH, SORRY. I FORGOT YOU WERE AFRAID OF SNAKES...

S... *SNAKE* ...

BUT HE'S REALLY A GOOD GUY! SUPER THOUGHTFUL!

SHIRT: I RENOUNCED THE WORLD

LOOK, JESUS. NOT A SINGLE WRINKLE.

MUCALINDA PRESSED THEM FOR US IN HIS COILS!

008 ~Quantum of Cockleshells~

Most Memorable Scenes

The otter goes to a phone booth to call his wife before driving into the ocean.

Squeak... Squeak- squeaky ...

Squeak... Squeakkity squeakes squeak squeak.

The otter hides 008 in seaweed so he can make his escape.

Where did he go?!

Don't let him get away!

Squeak!

And he only spoke of his love for others...!!

...by his quick thinking and readiness to act.

I was so touched...

SAINT YOUNG MEN

...AND GIVE THEM COMFORT AND NOURISH-MENT.

OBON IS A BUDDHIST FESTIVAL WHERE PEOPLE WELCOME HOME THE SPIRITS OF THEIR ANCES-TORS...

I DIDN'T REALLY THINK ABOUT IT WHEN I WENT TO THE FESTIVAL LAST YEAR...

Heh heh... Exotic Japan...

WOW, I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE BIG BON DANCE...

WHAT?! THAT'S AMAZING!! SO DO THEY WALK HERE?!

NO, THEY RIDE VEGETA-BLES.

IT'S THE DAY THEY OPEN THE POTS OF HELL AND ALL THE SPIRITS COME BACK FROM THE AFTERLIFE.

SO WHY DID YOU IGNORE IT LAST YEAR?

BUT THIS IS THE SECOND BIGGEST EVENT FOR YOU GUYS RIGHT AFTER NEW YEAR'S, ISN'T IT?!

HUH? WELL, BECAUSE.

SQUEAK

RUSTTLE

KA-CHAK

KA-CHAK-CHAK

JESUS...

KA-POP

YOU KNOW... THEY USE THOSE DISPOSABLE CHOPSTICKS TO MAKE LEGS FOR EGGPLANTS AND SET THEM OUTSIDE...

THE SPIRITS WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO RIDE A VEGETABLE LIKE THAT, JESUS. I'D FEEL BAD!

What...? Which side is the front?! Mine's kind of different from everyone else's. How do you drive this thing?

TMP トレーラー

COME ON DOWN TO EARTH!

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 27

Bon Bon Bon

BUDDHA: GOING INTO A SAUNA ALWAYS REMINDS HIM OF HIS ASCETIC TRAINING.

THAT MIGHT BE GOOD FOR A SPIRIT WHOSE FAMILY LIVES ON THE MOON, BUT...

Stop playing with our food!

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

SNAP

AFTER THE FIRST LAUNCH STAGE, IT JETTISONS ITS FUEL TANK TO GO EVEN FASTER...

LOTUS ROOT WOULD BE LIKE THIS...

JESUS: GOING TO THE SAUNA ALWAYS MAKES HIM WANT ICE CREAM.

THEN JUST DON'T OPEN THE POTS OF HELL.

WHAT? REALLY?

RUB RUB

SO I WISH THEY'D STOP THIS BUSINESS OF COMING BACK TO VISIT FAMILY.

I MEAN, IDEALLY, I WANT THEM TO ***ESCAPE*** SAMSARA.

SHIRT: LOURDES

HELL IS ALWAYS WORKING ON SUCH A TIGHT SCHEDULE.

OH, COME ON, WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?!

AND THEN THE PEOPLE ON EARTH GO AND MAKE VEGETABLE ANIMALS FOR THEM TO RIDE HOME ON...

It gets muggy in the summer, and that place is covered in soot!

NO! IT WOULD DRIVE ME NUTS NOT TO AIR THE PLACE OUT AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR!

GLARE

KNOWING YOU, YOU'D WANT TO GO BEYOND VENTILATION AND VACUUM THE WHOLE PLACE.

THE HELL HOT SPRINGS.

THE MOUNTAIN OF SPIKES TOUR.

SCRITCH

THE HELL PRINT SHOP SHUTS DOWN FOR THE DAY, TOO...

...YEAH. SINCE THE SPIRITS HAVE ALL LEFT, EVERYTHING ELSE STOPS, TOO.

IT WON'T HURT THE HEAVENS TOO MUCH IF THEY TAKE A BREAK ONCE IN A WHILE.

WHICH MEANS... WAIT, DON'T TELL ME YOUR DEADLINE IS TODAY?!

When was the last time you put your pen down?

...SO THE ONLY WAY IT REALLY AFFECTS THE HEAVENS IS THAT THE R2000 DEADLINES ARE MOVED UP FIVE DAYS.

SCRATCH

THREE ALL-NIGHTERS ?!

HEH HEH... IF I THINK OF IT AS TRAINING, THREE CONSECUTIVE ALL-NIGHTERS IS NOTHING...

AND DOES THIS MEAN YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT?!

BUT... WHAT ABOUT THE BON DANCE?!

WELL, I DID *TRY* TELLING BRAHMA-SAN THAT IT WAS GOING TO BE *TIGHT.*

Hmmm...

CAN'T YOU ASK AN ASSISTANT OR SOME-THING?!

YEAH. PHYSICALLY, I'M FINE.

WHOA... SO THIS IS THE PROVERBIAL "CRUNCH TIME"...

Are you okay?!

BUT IF HE USED ALL HIS ARMS AT FULL POWER, THAT'D BE LIKE HAVING *THREE* ASSISTANTS.

BUT HE SUGGESTED SENDING ASHURA-KUN—

THE *TITAN* OF THE ASURA REALM— TO YOYOGI ANIMATION ACADEMY, SO I HAD TO TURN HIM DOWN.

BUT I'M NOT VERY FAST AT THIS, SO I'M NOT SURE IF I CAN FINISH ON TIME.

THE ASHURA STATUE FROM KŌFUKUJI TEMPLE REALLY CAPTURES HIS FEATURES.

HE'S EVEN POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS—THEY SAY THEY CAN'T RESIST HIS INTENSE EXPRESSION.

OH, YEAH. HE'S ON THAT NATIONAL TOUR RIGHT NOW, TOO...

National Treasure The Ashura Exhibition

I saw it on the news...

I CAN'T MAKE MY HEAVEN OFFICE'S TOP IDOL GO THROUGH ALL THAT.

I HEAR FIGURES OF HIM ARE SELLING LIKE HOTCAKES HERE ON EARTH.

YEAH, WHEN I FIRST MET HIM I ASKED IF HE HAD A TUMMY ACHE.

What? No, I'm fine.

Do you hurt somewhere?

MAYBE, BUT BACK IN HEAVEN ...

PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS ASKING HIM IF HE'S FEELING ALL RIGHT.

NNNGH... IF ONLY I HAD ARTISTIC TALENT...

OH!

with tone and stuff!!

I can help,

WELL, ANY-WAY, I CAN MANAGE ON MY OWN THIS TIME.

OKAY, HOLD ON!

LET ME THINK OF WHO WOULD BE FREE RIGHT NOW...

BEEP

BEE-BEEP

THAT WOULD BE SO HELPFUL!

WHAT?! REALLY? YOU'D DO THAT?!

I KNOW! I ACTUALLY KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO CAN DRAW.

WANT ME TO CALL SOMEONE?!

OR RAPHAEL-SAN. WHO WILL IT BE?

DA VINCI-SAN ART SAMPLE

RAPHAEL-SAN ART SAMPLE

DA VINCI-SAN...

UH, THAT'S OKAY, JESUS...

SO I THINK I WOULD RECOM-MEND...

CLICK CLICK CLICK

OH, BUT HE MIGHT SNEAK SOME KIND OF CODE INTO YOUR MANGA...

DA VINCI-SAN CAN DO PER-SPECTIVE DRAWING, TOO...

THEY WOULD PROBABLY HOLD ON TO THE MANUSCRIPT FOR YEARS, REFUSING TO TURN IT IN UNTIL IT WAS PERFECT.

I COULD NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS MAKE ONE OF THEM USE A BRUSH PEN...

BRAHMA: GUARDIAN DEITY OF BUDDHIST LAW. CONVINCED BUDDHA TO SHARE HIS TEACHINGS WITH THE WORLD AFTER BUDDHA GAINED ENLIGHTEN-MENT. IF SOMEONE IS IN THE SAUNA WITH HIM, HE ALWAYS MAKES IT A CONTEST. HE LEAVES AFTER THEM AND WINS EVERY TIME.

DID ANANDA'S EYES NEED SOME BLACK ...?

UHH... YEAH. LET'S SEE...

R2000

HUH?

SO... BUDDHA, DO YOU NEED ME TO FILL IN ANY MORE BLACK?

FIVE HOURS LATER

SHIRT: ULLAMBANA

WHAT?! REALLY?! BLESSINGS UPON US!!

WHAT ...?

NO!!

WE'RE DONE, JESUS!!

UH...

WELL, ACTUALLY, HE'S ALREADY OUTSIDE.

SO WHEN IS BRAHMA-SAN COMING TO PICK UP THE MANU-SCRIPT?

33ど

LOOK, JESUS! SEE HOW BEAUTIFUL THE WORLD IS!!

WE'VE REACHED NIRVANA !!!

WE ARE FINALLY FREE OF THE MANGA CRUNCH TIME HELL!!

I'm so happy for you!!

IT IS, BUDDHA. BUT INSIDE, IT LOOKS LIKE THE AFTERMATH OF A HUR-RICANE...

WELL...

YOU KNOW BRAHMA-SAN GETS AROUND BY RIDING A GOOSE.

Oof.

...WHAT?! SINCE WHEN?!

IT'S BOILING OUT THERE— WHY DOESN'T HE WAIT *IN*SIDE?!

OHHH. BUT TODAY HE COULD HAVE COME ON A CUCUMBER.

Then he could have thrown it away when he got here...

What?!

He told me the poor thing was in shock the other day after it had that yellow sticker slapped on it.

HE DIDN'T WANT TO RISK LEAVING HIS GOOSE ON THE CURB AND GETTING A PARKING TICKET.

THANKS. I'LL JUST PUT THE SPEECH IN THE BUBBLES.

YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT?

SO YOU DO THE FINAL CHECK!

WELL, OKAY, I'LL GO GET HIM.

BUT WAIT... ISN'T THAT MATSUDA-SAN'S PARKING SPACE?!

OH! THERE IT IS!!

HUH?! THERE'S NO GOOSE AT THE CURB.

I HOPE BRAHMA-SAN ISN'T STANDING AROUND IN A SUIT IN THIS HEAT.

WHEW, IT'S HOT!!

OH NO!!

GRRR!!

I CAN LEAVE WHATEVER I WANT ON THIS ROAD.

I KNEW IT! MATSUDA-SAN IS YELLING AT BRAHMA-SAN!!

No, I'm on the clock.

CLAP

YOU CAN'T STAY THERE! COME HERE, LITTLE GOOSEY!

DID IT WANDER IN THERE ALL BY ITSELF?!

CLAP

EXCUSE ME! YOU CAN'T LEAVE THAT THERE!!

MAYBE HE REALLY LIKES ASCETIC TRAINING, TOO?

HM?

CONTROLS THE MARIO KART!

Grrrr!!

HE WHO CONTROLS THE BANANA PEEL...

MATSUDA: THE LANDLADY OF THE APARTMENT WHERE BUDDHA AND JESUS LIVE. "SAUNA? HMM, HAVEN'T BEEN TO ONE OF THOSE THINGS IN YEARS."

SORRY, I'M ON THE THIRD LAP! PLEASE WAIT FOR JUST A MOMENT!

Wow, feel that AC...

カラ RATTLE

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BRAHMA-SAN?

you won't beat me, got it?

Next time...

I BET HE WALKED IN LIKE HE OWNED THE PLACE...

It's just so hot...

OF COURSE, I DIDN'T INTRODUCE MYSELF UNTIL TODAY.

IT IS ONLY RIGHT THAT I SHOULD BE ACQUAINTED WITH SIDDARTHA-SENSEI'S LANDLADY.

I'd never played it before.

I didn't know you were good at Mario Kart.

WHEN IN THE WORLD DID YOU GET TO BE FRIENDS WITH MATSUDA-SAN?

UGH, YOU NEARLY GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK ...

OH! ARE YOU GOING TO TRANSFER DIGITAL FILES OVER THE COMPUTER?

That's high-tech.

NO, IT'S EVEN FASTER...

YES. I DON'T HAVE TO DELIVER IT PERSONALLY— THERE'S A WAY TO SEND IT INSTANTLY.

...WHAT?! FIVE O'CLOCK?! THAT'S IN FIVE MINUTES!

CAN YOU GET TO THE PRINTERS THAT FAST?!

ANYWAY, GOOD TIMING. NOW WE CAN GET THE MANUSCRIPT IN BY THE 5:00 DEADLINE.

OTAKIAGE BONFIRE DELIVERY.

BWOH

AND YOU'LL BE DELIVERING IT VIA BONFIRE TODAY?

OH! YES, IT'S ALL FINISHED!

BAM!!!

SIDDHARTHA! I ASSUME THE MANUSCRIPT IS READY!

OTAKIAGE FIRES WORK LIKE FAX MACHINES TO THE HEAVENS.

ACK... JUST A— WAAHH !!!

GOOD. THEN I WILL LIGHT THE FIRE.

BWOH

I'VE GOTTEN EVERYTHING READY TO SEND IT TO SAKRA-SAN.

WHEW, I'M GLAD YOU GOT THAT IN ON TIME...

BUT IF YOU GO TO HEAVEN, YOU'LL SEE IT'S THERE.

YEAH... SORRY ABOUT THAT.

I know "all things are impermanent," but come on...

BUT THAT DELIVERY METHOD WAS REALLY HARD TO WATCH...

OOOHHH! EXOTIC JAPAN!!

YOU JUST CAN'T *NOT* BE EXCITED WHEN YOU HEAR THOSE SOUNDS!!

BOOM BA-BOOM

HAAA

OH! THE MUSIC'S STARTING!

YEAH. EVERYONE ON THE DANCE FLOOR WILL HAVE THEIR EYES ON US!

I'M READY TO LET OFF SOME STEAM AND DANCE MY HEART OUT!

AND NOW I'M STIFF FROM SITTING ALL DAY.

BUDDHA?

SOMETHING LIKE THIS? IS THIS GOOD?

YOU KNOW, I DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW HOW TO DO A BON DANCE...

ちよ WAVE

ちよ WAVE

HALT

CAN *YOU* DO THE DAN...

SWAY SWAY SWAY

SQUEAK

WHOOSH

UH, WELL, I THINK YOURS HAD A NICE AVANT-GARDE STYLE TO IT...

BUT SERIOUSLY, WHY *ARE* YOU DANCING LIKE THAT?!

BLUUUSH

WHAT? YOU'RE KIDDING!

WHY NOT?!

BA-BAM

NAMU !!

HE WAS SO HAPPY TO GET HIS MOTHER OUT OF HELL,

THAT HE STARTED DANCING. AND THAT'S HOW HE DANCED.

Wow, that will be tough... What you should do is make offerings in her name.

Listen, my mom is stuck in the Realm of Hungry Ghosts!!

BECAUSE! THE BON DANCE STARTED WITH MY DISCIPLE MAUDGALYA-YANA.

STOP, BUDDHA! NOBODY IS DANCING LIKE YOU! LIKE, AT ALL!!

YEAH, I'M PRETTY SURE HIS TIME STILL HASN'T COME.

ザワ MURMUR

ザワ MURMUR

Is he...happy?!

MURMUR ザワ MURMUR

ザワ MURMUR

Aahh, it feels just like it did back then!!

BUT I THOUGHT AFTER TWO THOUSAND YEARS, MAYBE THE WORLD HAD FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO HIM...

HIS DANCE AT THE TIME WAS SO BIZARRE AND INCOMPREHENSIBLE THAT HE KIND OF FREAKED EVERYBODY OUT.

OH, IT LOOKS LIKE THIS ONE IS CALLED THE AWA ODORI.

Wow, this is embarrassing.

NO KIDDING... THIS IS NOTHING LIKE HIS DANCE...

LANTERNS: SAKATA LAW OFFICES, ...AI FAMILY, ...MURA FAMILY, OFFICES, NAGANOYA

BUT I SAW IT AROUND THE SAME TIME...

AHA! I REMEMBER NOW!!

WHAT? LIKE MAUDGALYAYANASAN'S DANCE?

NO...

WAIT. THAT WOMAN'S DANCE LOOKS KIND OF FAMILIAR.

坂田法律事務所

長野屋

汉所

村家

合家

I WONDER WHY.

SO THEY DIDN'T MAKE ANY SPECIAL EFFORTS TO CARRY ON HIS LEGACY...

MAYBE IF THE SPIRITS CAME BACK FOR RELIEF AND COMFORT AND SAW PEOPLE DANCING LIKE THAT, IT WOULD JUST TRAUMATIZE THEM.

...AND THEY KNEW THEY HAD TO STOP HIM AT ALL COSTS!!

Please...calm down!! I know how you feel, but you need to calm down!

THAT'S HOW THE OTHER DISCIPLES MOVED WHEN THEY SAW MAUDGALYA-YANA GET WORKED UP...

TIMID

TIMID

TIMID

I TOLD MAUDGALYA-YANA I'D SEND HIM A VIDEO...

...WHAT DO I DO...?

NOT GOOD FOR A STRAIGHT MAN, BUT IT'S EVERY-THING A FUNNY MAN COULD ASK FOR.

GAH!

BUT I CAN'T TELL HIM THAT EVEN TWO THOUSAND YEARS LATER, IT STILL GETS SIDE-EYED BY THE WHOLE FESTIVAL!

MAYBE THEY DESIGNED IT SO THAT ANY-BODY COULD PICK IT UP.

HEY, THIS IS PRETTY FUN ONCE YOU GET THE HANG OF IT!

HEH HEH. THAT'S BECAUSE OF ALL THE VISITING SPIRITS DANCING WITH US.

AND A LOT MORE PEOPLE HAVE JOINED IN, SO IT'S GETTING PRETTY EXCITING.

THAT'S TRUE. AND I KNOW HOW THEY FEEL.

LET'S JUST LET THEM DANCE. NOBODY'S DOING ANY HARM.

HA HA. NOW, NOW.

STARE

AND SOME OF THEM ARE DESPERATELY TRYING TO ACT LIKE THEY'RE STILL ALIVE...

YEAH, THEY STARTED RECOG-NIZING ME.

YEAH...

BUT...

ANYBODY WOULD WANT TO SEE THEIR LOVED ONES AGAIN, IF THEY COULD.

Ack! Aranda's fainted!

BUT EVEN I WAS SAD TO SAY GOODBYE TO THE PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT.

I'VE ACHIEVED ENLIGHTEN-MENT,

...COULDN'T THEY JUST RESURRECT THEIR BODIES, TOO?

IF COMING BACK AS SPIRITS ISN'T ENOUGH FOR THEM...

...YOU KNOW...

Tch!!

GULP

Tch.

You know...?

Tch.

THE TIME CAME FOR THE POTS OF HELL TO CLOSE ONCE MORE.

SLOW

SLOW

AND THEN ...

BOOM

SERI-OUSLY. BE CARE-FUL.

BOOM

I-I'M SORRY. BUT—BUT WHAT DID I DO?!

Tch!

Tch!!

Tch!

Tch!

WHAT?! REALLY?!

THAT WAS A VERY MARIE ANTOINETTE THING TO SAY...

Tch.

YEAH. I'M HEARING A LOT OF GRUMBLING FROM THE SPIRITS...

This is the trouble with rich kids.

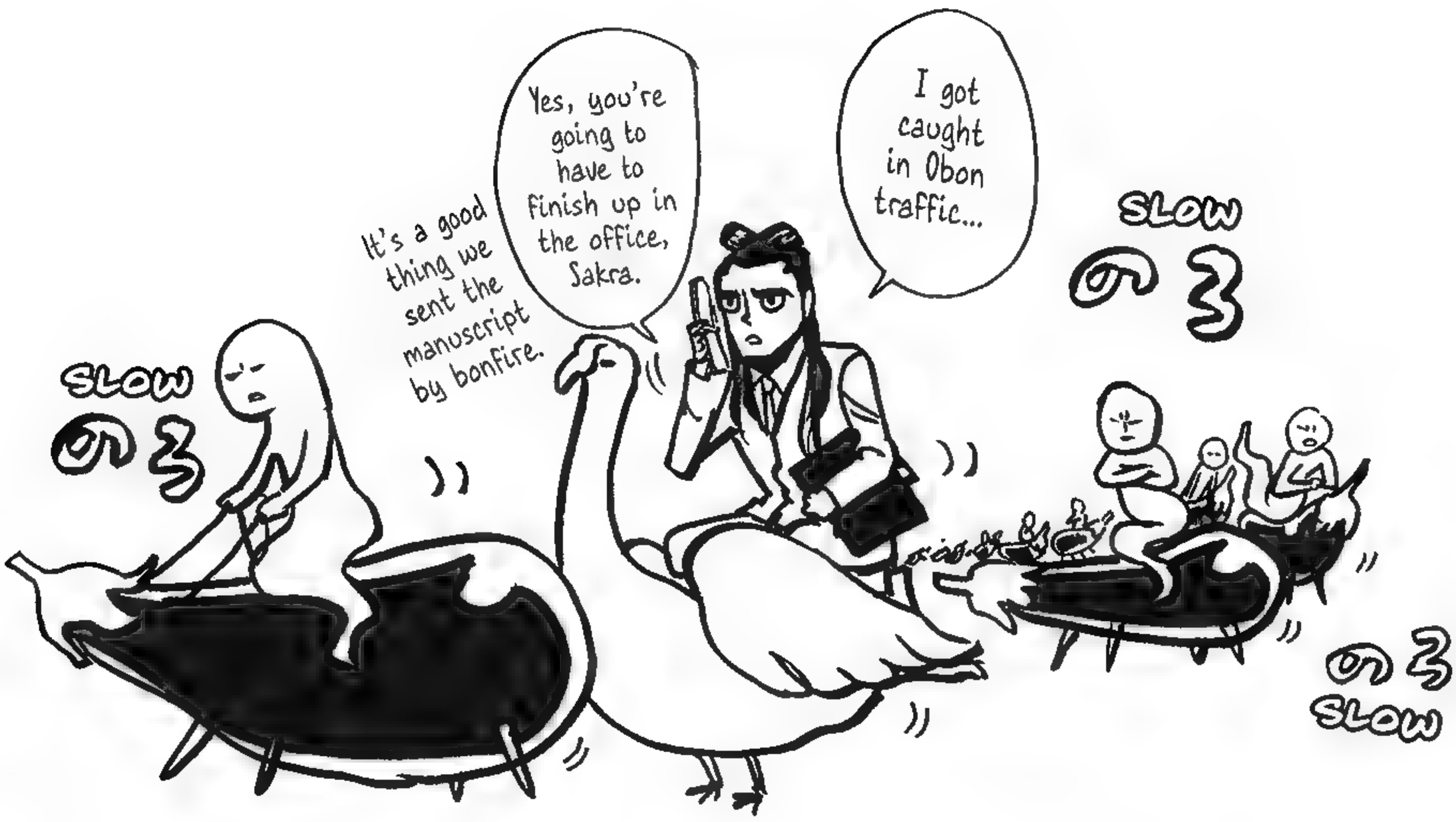
...OF A SPIRIT CLAIMING, "I HAD TO RIDE A HEAD OF BROCCOLI, BUT IT WAS WEIRDLY FAST."

How can it have this much horsepower?!

I mean, what animal is it supposed to be?!

YEEARRGH!

FOR A LONG TIME THERE-AFTER, THERE WAS MUCH TALK IN THE AFTER-LIFE...


Yes, you're going to have to finish up in the office, Sakra.
It's a good thing we sent the manuscript by bonfire.
I got caught in Obon traffic...
SLOW
SLOW
SLOW
SLOW

SAINT YOUNG MEN

AND RESTED ON THE SEVENTH.

HE WORKED SIX DAYS...

WHEN GOD MADE THIS WORLD,

...SAY, JESUS, IF YOU'RE BORED, DO YOU WANT TO GO TO A MANGA CAFE?

LAAAZE

EVEN NOW, THE LAST DAY OF THE WEEK IS HONORED AS THE SABBATH DAY...

DURING WHICH NO LABOR IS TO BE PERFORMED.

BUDDHA'S SHIRT: ARHAT, JESUS'S SHIRT: GALILEE

SHOULD YOU REALLY BE THIS ACTIVE ON THE DAY OF REST?

Pulling out coupons and everything!!

ALL RIGHT, THAT'S THREE HOURS IN A PAIR-SEAT COMPARTMENT WITH A COMPUTER.

YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE ON THE FIFTH FLOOR.

SHONEN MANGA

DAEMON

WE WELCOME! INTERNET

IT'S OKAY. THE SABBATH WAS MADE FOR MAN, AFTER ALL. AND MOST OF ALL...

IT'S JUST, I HEARD THEY OPENED UP A NEW ONE OVER BY THE STATION.

OH, RIGHT.... THEN WE'LL GO ANOTHER TIME.

...OBSERVING THE DAY OF REST.

WHAT? BORED? NO, I'M JUST...

WAIT!

MANGA WONDER

J-JESUS, SHOULD YOU REALLY BE RUNNING?!

JOLT

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED, BECAUSE THIS ONE HAS ONLINE GAMING CONSOLES.

WHOA, THAT'S SOME SURPRISING CORE STRENGTH!!

MANGA CAFE WONDER

YOU'RE LOOKING AT ME SO INTENTLY— WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU?!

WONDER RECEPTION

DAEMON HUNTER

WE WELCOME INTERNET GAMERS!!!

...DO YOU REALLY THINK SOMETHING AS UNPRODUCTIVE AS INTERNET GAMING WOULD COUNT AS WORK?

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 28

The Saintly Network

BUDDHA: WHEN WASHING OFF IN THE BATH, HE HAS TO USE A SPONGE OR HE FEELS GROSS.

LOOK! THEY EVEN HAVE SOFT-SERVE ICE CREAM!

AND ITS DRINK BAR IS BETTER THAN AT A FAMILY RESTAURANT...

WOOOW! EVERYTHING'S SO NEW! AND THIS PLACE IS SO BIG!

JESUS: DOESN'T REALLY KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HAIR CONDITIONER AND HAIR RINSE.

IT'S LIKE MY CHILDHOOD HOME...

...AND WE CAN ORDER SNACKS WITH THE PUSH OF A BUTTON.

BWOFF

BWOFF

BUDDHA! THIS SOFA IS SO SOFT!

WHOA! WHOA! THE COMPUTER SEATS ARE PRACTICALLY PRIVATE ROOMS!

I-I DON'T KNOW ...

GO ON, GO GET SOME MANGA!

NOTHING IS BETTER THAN OUR CASTLE AT MATSUDA HEIGHTS!

I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S FINE. NO MATTER HOW NICE IT IS HERE...

Manga cafe chairs should at least be hard!!

THIS PLACE WILL CORRUPT US!!!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE. WE'LL HOP ON KANTHAKA AND RUN AWAY!

JUST A— CALM DOWN, BUDDHA! WE PAID FOR THIS!

IT'S HOPELESS, JESUS.

RATTLE

Now let's log in...

FOR CRYING OUT LOUD. HE'S OVERTHINKING IT.

WHAT?! MATSUDA HEIGHTS DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE!

Unless my eyes were deceiving me, they even had massage chairs...

THIS PLACE HAS A BATH...

I WAS ORIGINALLY PLANNING ON READING *MANGA MICHI* TODAY.

SHUT

NO, I'VE FOUND A WAY TO FIGHT IT...

CLATTER

WHAT DO WE DO? I HATE TO WASTE THE MONEY, BUT... SHOULD WE GO HOME?

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS PLACE IS SUCH A GARDEN OF DE-PRAVITY...

OH...!

I KNOW, BUDDHA ...

That Face ...!!

HE INSTANTLY CHANGED THIS GARDEN OF DEPRAVITY INTO A GROVE OF ASCETICISM!

WHAT?!

But it's as quiet as a graduation ceremony in here!

BUT I'VE DECIDED TO MAKE THIS AN ASCETIC EXERCISE AND READ THIS INSTEAD.

THAT'S OKAY. I CAN JUST USE MY REGULAR LAPTOP.

ZHRR

WOW. WHY DID YOU BRING THAT HERE?

WHAT? BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE COM-PUTER.

IF YOU'RE TORTURING YOURSELF ANYWAY, WANT TO PLAY WITH ME?

YOU'RE GOING TO READ A *GAG* MANGA IN A MANGA CAFE?!

SUPER BIG LAUGH BOY

FUNNYGIRL 1

BUT HE ALWAYS COMES WITH ME ANYWAY ...

N-NOW THAT HE MENTIONS IT, IT'S TRUE...

GASP

I DON'T READ THAT MUCH MANGA, SO...

OH NO...

DON'T TELL ME THE WHOLE REASON YOU CAME HERE WAS TO DRAG ME INTO YOUR WORLD OF INTERNET GAMING?!

CLATTER

I-IT WASN'T! I ALWAYS BRING MY LAPTOP TO MANGA CAFES!

THEN MAYBE I *WILL* TRY YOUR GAME TODAY...

UH, OKAY...

MAYBE TODAY IT'S MY TURN TO STEP UP AND TRY HIS HOBBIES.

AND YOU'RE *SURE* YOU WEREN'T PLOTTING THIS ALL ALONG?

BRISK

AND HERE'S AN EASY SUMMARY OF THE CONTROLS.

I'M SO GLAD! I ACTUALLY ALREADY MADE A CHARACTER FOR YOU!

YOU WILL ?!

YEAH. THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD FIT...

IT'S JUST... PRIESTS CAST HEALING MAGIC AND STUFF!

BUT COME ON...

HUH?!

...WHAT ?!

WHAT? DID I DO SOME-THING WRONG?!

WOW, THERE ARE SO MANY OPTIONS...

OH, I CAN BE A PRIEST.

YOU JUST NEED TO CHOOSE YOUR JOB, AND YOU'RE READY TO GO.

C'mon, c'mon!

I'LL GO WITH THAT.

off

on

HOW CAN THAT POSSIBLY BE FUN?!

WHY WOULD YOU BE A HEALING CHARACTER WHEN YOU'RE OFF-DUTY?!

...THAT'S RICH, COMING FROM YOU.

DAEMON HUNTER

WHAT KIND OF A WORKAHOLIC ARE YOU?!

...AND LET SOMEONE ELSE HEAL *YOU* WHEN YOU'RE INJURED!

THIS IS YOUR TIME TO BE A CHARACTER THAT *CAN'T* USE MAGIC...

SUCH ARE THE TRIALS OF THOSE WHO MAKE A CAREER OUT OF THEIR HOBBY.

off

Yessir

on

AND SPENDING YOUR VACATION TIME BANISHING EVIL SPIRITS. YOU'RE THE *REAL* WORKAHOLIC.

YOU'RE THE ONE PLAYING "DAEMON HUNTER ONLINE" ...

PETER: THE LEADER OF JESUS'S TWELVE APOSTLES. WHEN WASHING OFF IN THE BATH, HE HAS TO USE A WASHCLOTH OR HE FEELS GROSS.

OOOHHH! WITH A SCREEN THIS BIG, IT'S LIKE I'M WATCHING A MOVIE!

DAEMON HUNTER 2nd

OH...

DUN DA-DUN

BUT PETER AND ANDREW ARE ONLINE!

OH! I WASN'T SURE WE'D FIND ANYBODY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY.

Just a little, around here...

?

COULDN'T THEY HAVE MADE HIM A LITTLE MORE SLENDER?

...BUT MY CHARAC-TER...

ANDREW: ONE OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES, PETER'S YOUNGER BROTHER. PREFERS TO USE A WASHCLOTH IN THE BATH, AND ALWAYS USES BATH SALTS.

Huh...? There's a priest standing next to you... That's just a handle name, right?

Andrew

Hey, Jesus-sama lolol. You know it's the middle of the day, right? lol

Petey

Hey, Fisherman Brothers!

Yessir

Buddha

WHAT? B-BUT I'M NOT READY...

LET'S GO TALK TO THEM.

KLIKKA

...Buddha-sama???

Hello...? Say something...

I bet his healing magic would seriously heal you lololol

And look! Buddha-sama is a level one priest! Lololol

WAAH

GO TUG

WAAH

GO TUG

And hey, the accuracy of these graphics is totally legit lolol

Whaaaat!!! For real?! Legit!!!

No, it's Siddhartha himself!

WAH

What the lolol But lolol Why lolololol

Pia0

Petey

Andrew

...Sorry, dude.

Jat25a

...huh...?

Uh...

Fear not, my friends.

It's just that Buddha can't use a keyboard!

SHAKE

If you could, would you please condescend to a level of speech that little lambs such as ourselves can comprehend...?

SHAKE

Lowly men such as ourselves cannot hope to understand the words of the great Buddha-sama.

IS THAT ALL? NO, IT'S TOTALLY FINE!

OH!

I APOLOGIZE TO YOU BOTH. I WAS ONLY TRYING TO SAY, "HELLO."

AND I'LL DO THAT TODAY, TOO.

YEAH, YOU SHOULD DO THAT...

WOULD IT BE OKAY TO SPEAK DIRECTLY INTO THEIR MINDS?

SORRY, JESUS... I CAN ONLY GET SO FAR WITH SEARCH TYPING.

The disciples can use Skype.

NOD

OKAY, FIRST OF ALL, YOU'RE GOING TO NEED SOME EQUIPMENT.

WOBBLE

YEAH, I'M MANAGING ...

WOBBLE

YOU'RE OKAY USING A MOUSE, RIGHT, BUDDHA?

SO DO YOU KNOW HOW TO MOVE AROUND AND STUFF?

I KNOW, LET'S ALL SPLIT UP AND BUY SOME EQUIPMENT FOR BUDDHA!

SO THEY ALL PREFER TO SEPARATE THEIR WORK AND PERSONAL LIVES.

IF ONE OF US TWELVE APOSTLES WERE PLAYING AS A PRIEST, WE COULD GIVE YOU SOME HAND-ME-DOWNS, BUT...

HA HA HA. THAT'S OKAY. IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS.

AND AS FAR AS DEFENSE GOES,

Maybe this one?

BUT YOU KNOW, THERE'S NOT A GREAT SELECTION IN THE *FIRST* TOWN.

IT'S FINE. I DIDN'T BUY MY OWN EQUIPMENT WHEN I STARTED, EITHER.

...WHAT?!

THAT'S OKAY! YOU DON'T NEED TO BUY ANY-THING...

BUD-DHA! WE'RE BACK!

SORRY, THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING GOOD...

TEP A A TEP

OH...

OF COURSE! WE CAN BE BUDDHA'S PATRON SAINTS!

WE CAN KEEP BUDDHA-SAMA SAFE UNTIL HE GETS BETTER GEAR.

THEN THIS ROBE SHOULD BE JUST FINE!

YOU STAY THERE AND PRACTICE THE CONTROLS OR SOME-THING.

REALLY. YOU DON'T NEED TO BUY ME ANYTHING.

IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE.

I'VE ALWAYS MADE IT A POINT TO TRY AND WEAR HAND-ME-DOWNS.

OH. YEAH, I WAS STANDING HERE, AND ALL THESE PEOPLE GAVE ME THEIR OLD THINGS...

...HUH? THAT ROBE LOOKS LIKE IT BELONGS TO A GREAT MAGE...

AND THAT STAFF PROBABLY CONTROLS SOME KIND OF ELEMENT ...

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING ALMS IS ALIVE AND WELL, EVEN IN THE WORLD OF ONLINE GAMING.

NO... I'M PRETTY SURE YOU CAN ONLY GET A STAFF LIKE THAT BY BEATING AN S-CLASS ENEMY...

SO I CAN MAKE DO WITH THESE. I DON'T NEED ANYTHING NEW!

...OH NO, WAIT!

OH! GOOD IDEA!

POOF

OH, HEY, PETEY! CAN WE ADD HIM TO OUR PARTY?

IT'S SUCH A HEART-WARMING IDEA. I LOVE IT.

PLAYING VIDEO GAMES WITH HIS DISCIPLES ON THE DAY OF REST.

NUMBER THIRTEEN ...

...THAT WOULD MAKE HIM...

THAT WOULD BE AN UNLUCKY NUMBER TO JESUS AND HIS FRIENDS!!

JUDAS-SAN WAS THE 13TH TO SIT DOWN AT THE LAST SUPPER...

THIR-TEEN... I THINK ...

OH...!

HUH?!

NO...

THIR-TEEN...

WHAT? YOU'RE KIDDING ...

WH-WHAT'S WRONG ...

...WAIT... I KNOW, JESUS-SAMA.

I'M SO SORRY, JESUS ...!

IN FACT, IF IT'S GOING TO REMIND THEM OF JUDAS-SAN WHEN THEY'RE HAVING SO MUCH FUN...!

HNGH

EVEN WITH MY ASCETIC TRAINING, I WAS ALWAYS THE TYPE TO DO BETTER ON MY OWN.

UM... THAT'S OKAY. I DON'T HAVE TO BE ON THE PARTY!

OF COURSE... BEHIND THAT CAREFREE EXTERIOR, THEY'RE ALL STILL HOLDING ON TO THAT GRIEF...

WOULDN'T THAT DEFEAT THE WHOLE PURPOSE ?!

OH! YOU WANT TO?

OOH!

WE CAN INVITE JUDAS TO THE PARTY, AND THEN WE'LL BE *FOUR*TEEN!

REMEMBER WHAT HE SAID WHEN HE LEFT?

ANDREW-SAN...

DID YOU FORGET WHY WE CAST JUDAS OUT IN THE FIRST PLACE?!

BUDDHA-SAMA'S RIGHT, BROTHER. SEE? EVEN HE'S WORRIED.

WHAT? HE WAS IN THE PARTY BEFORE ?!

WE CAN'T INVITE HIM TO THE PARTY!!

HE'S FINALLY STARTING TO RECOVER FROM HIS INTERNET ADDICTION.

MAKING HIMSELF THE BUTT OF THE JOKE...

All of you are saints of online gaming.

Judas-san logging out in 5 seconds

But I alone am *tainted* by online gaming. jk lololol

I'M OKAY NOW. WE HAVE DAD AND THE ANGELS ON OUR SIDE...

SORRY. IT JUST HAD ME FEELING A LITTLE SCARED, IS ALL...

Eh heh

THEN WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE NUMBER THIRTEEN?!

YOU WERE AFRAID BECAUSE OF THE MOVIE *FRIDAY THE 13TH?!*

...that awful movie!

I wish I'd never seen...

...WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!

AS LONG AS WE DON'T GO ANYWHERE NEAR LAKES OR CHAINSAWS OR HOCKEY MASKS...

NO! IT'S OKAY! WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU ON OUR PARTY, BUDDHA-SAMA!

D-DON'T PUSH YOURSELVES, OKAY?

I'M SORRY... MY CRUCIFIXION MUST HAVE REALLY TRAUMATIZED YOU...

I'M OKAY WITH HORROR, BUT SLASHERS ...

DOES THAT MEAN THERE AREN'T ANY TOUGH MONSTERS?

VIRASULA SHOULD BE SAFE FOR A FIRST-TIMER.

OKAY! NOW LET'S GO DO A QUEST!

OOHH!!

OKAY, I JUST MADE IT OFFICIAL!

FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE A MEMBER OF THE ONLINE SAINTS PARTY!

13 Online Saints

3 Online Saints

1 Onli

2 Online Saints

ALLOW ME OFFICIALLY WELCOME YOU, BUDDHA-SAMA!

OH, RIGHT, I FORGOT TO TELL YOU...

SURE WE WILL!

OH! BUT YOU GUYS WON'T HAVE ANY FUN PLAYING THERE...

WELL, THERE GOES MY LAST SHRED OF UNDER-STANDING OF WHAT YOU GET OUT OF THIS GAME!

Wow, you're right! It's blue!! That's legit!!

Whoa! I've never seen these before!!

OUR PARTY MOSTLY JUST COLLECTS RARE MUSHROOMS.

OH, HA HA HA. DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT LITTLE GUY. HE'S SUPER WEAK.

JESUS, IT'S A MONSTER!!

ACK?!

KREEE!!

BA-BAM

HEH HEH. IT'S TRUE.

Bird-brain!

Dummy-head!

HIS INSULTS ARE CUTE, TOO.

IT KIND OF REMINDS ME OF KANDATA. IT'S CUTE.

OH! YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S TALKING!

Dim-wit!!

Stu-pid!

HE HAS ALMOST NO ATTACK POWER, BUT HE'S SURE GOT A MOUTH ON HIM.

YO DADDY'S AN OUTIE!!!

I GUESS IT'S LIKE INNOCENT NAME-CALLING.

HE'S KIND OF LIKE THE DAEMON HUNTER MASCOT.

...WHAT...

I'M SURE HE DOESN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S SAYING...

YO DADDY'S AN OUTIE!!

STU-PID!!

NO, HE MIGHT BE TALKING ABOUT MY CARPENTER DAD!

UM...

TREMBLE T'IIV

TREMBLE T'IIV

YEARRGH!

YEAERGH!

I...

YEARRGH!

...PENT !!!

RE...

HUH?

NO, IT'S OKAY.

...I'M SORRY, BUDDHA. MY DISCIPLES TEND TO GET A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY.

DO YOU HATE *DAEMON HUNTER* NOW...?

Ha na ha...

R-REALLY?!

IT WAS FUN SEEING HOW YOU ALL GET ALONG.

IT MADE ME THINK IT WOULD BE NICE TO PLAY GAMES LIKE THIS WITH *MY* DISCIPLES.

I MEAN, IF I TAKE IT, THEN *YOU* WON'T HAVE A COMPUTER ...!

WHAT?! NO, I COULDN'T ACCEPT IT!

IT'S YOURS!

THEN TAKE MY LAPTOP!

BEFORE YOU BEAT THE DAEMONS IN ONLINE GAMES...

SUPER BIG LAUGH BOY

...AND THEN...

JESUS ...

UH, NO... I PROMISE, I WASN'T *PLANNING* FOR IT TO TURN OUT LIKE THAT...

It just happened anyway...

IT IS SAID THAT WHEN HE FINISHED HIS ASCETIC TRAINING, JESUS DESCRIBED THE EXPERIENCE THUS, "IF THOU SHALT BITE THY LEFT CHEEK YET STILL FEEL COMPELLED TO LAUGH, BITE THY RIGHT CHEEK ALSO."

I'M ...

REALLY SORRY ...

...YOU MUST MAKE YOUR OWN HEART STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEAT THE MARA THAT LIVES WITHIN IT.

GRIN ニコ…

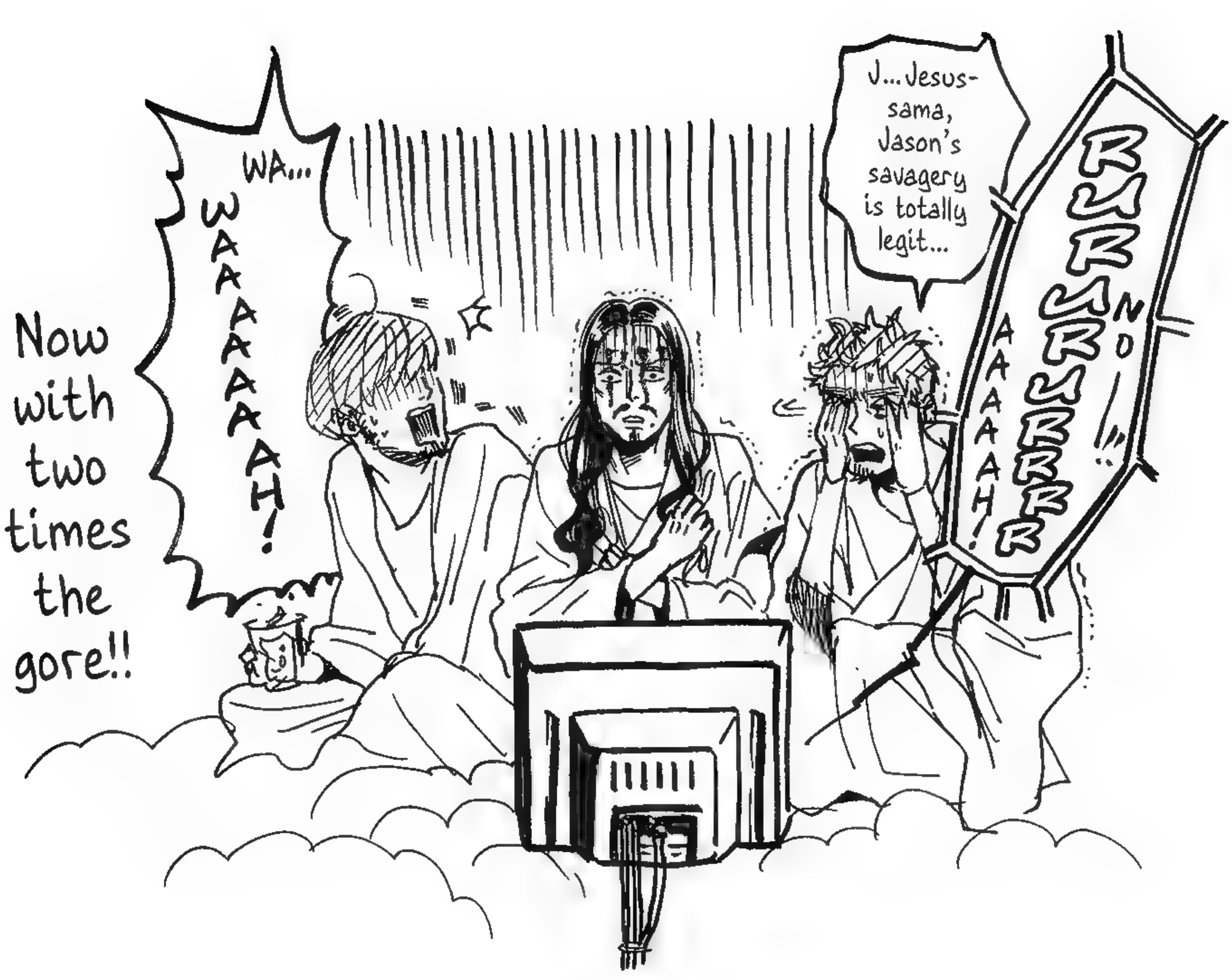
I HEREBY GRANT YOU THIS.

JOLT!!

IS THAT IT?

...YOU CAN BUY THE LATEST MODEL...

DAEMON HUNTER


Now with two times the gore!!
WA...
WAAAAAAH!
J...Jesus-sama, Jason's savagery is totally legit...
NO!!
RRRRRRR
AAAAAH!

SAINT YOUNG MEN

...HE DELIBERATELY CHOSE TO RIDE A DONKEY RATHER THAN A HORSE.

WHEN CHRIST MADE HIS TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM...

HORSES ARE DEFINITELY A NO GO. THEY'RE THE NEXT WORST THING AFTER BOATS...

VRRROOOM

I MEAN, ANY DONKEY WOULD BE GREAT, BUT COLTS ARE THE BEST.

WHAT IS THAT? THE ABILITY TO STRENGTHEN MY EAR CANALS?

Whew...

Want a hard candy or something?

YOU SHOULD JUST ACHIEVE ENLIGHTEN-MENT AND MASTER THE POWER OF DIVYA-CHAKSUS.

VRRROOOM

BUT IT TURNS OUT BUSES ARE EVEN WORSE THAN HORSES!!

Are you okay?

YOU REALLY DO HAVE MOTION SICKNESS ISSUES...

SO WHAT IS THE WORST?

MY ONLY CONSOLA-TION IS THAT THERE ARE WORSE FORMS OF TRANSPORTA-TION THAN THIS...

WELL OBVIOUSLY ...

SO IT'S STILL JUST A FOLK REMEDY...

NO, IT'S THE DIVINE EYE. IT LETS YOU SEE THINGS THAT ARE FAR AWAY.

Are they over here?

NNNGH... IT'S GETTING WORSE.

OH YEAH, I HEARD THAT'S AS BAD AS DOING SQUATS ON AN ELEVATOR.

WHOOOOSH

Hang in there, Jesus-sama!!

Ulp... bleeegh. My stomach just did a backflip...

...BEING CARRIED BY ANGELS FOR ASSUMP-TIONS.

Ugh... The memory made me even sicker...

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 29

Beware of Apples!

BUDDHA: IS ASHAMED TO ADMIT THAT HE'S BROKEN OUT DANCING WHILE LISTENING TO RECORD SAMPLES IN A MUSIC STORE.

YOU HAVE 30 MINUTES TO USE THE FACILITIES. PLEASE DON'T BE LATE.

ICE CREAM

WE ARE NOW ARRIVING AT THE REST AREA.

JESUS: IS ASHAMED TO ADMIT THAT... WELL, NO. ACTUALLY IT WASN'T THAT EMBARRASSING.

ANIKI !!

WELCOME!!

YEAH, BUT YOU ARE BLEEDING, JESUS, SO WIPE YOUR FACE!

I...I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT I MANAGED NOT TO THROW UP...

SHIRT: SUDDHODANA

YOU DON'T LIKE FRUIT, JUST WATERMELON.

HONESTLY, THIS MAN.

I MEAN, I'M A BIG FAN OF FRUIT MYSELF, SO I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BUT...

OH... OKAY.

I'M SO SORRY! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE INVITED YOU ON OUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION FRUIT PICKING EXCURSION!!

I HAD NO IDEA YOU GOT MOTION SICK, ANIKI ...

DON'T TELL ME YOU STARTED BUSTING HEADS.

NO, IT WAS MORE LIKE...

SO THERE WEREN'T ANY, BUT ...THAT WASN'T GOING TO STOP ME.

OHHH, I DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT ONCE...

I HAD THIS HUGE CRAVING FOR SOME FIGS, BUT THEY WEREN'T IN SEASON...

HE STORMED INTO A GROCERY STORE IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER AND DEMANDED THAT THEY SELL HIM A WATERMELON.

I WON'T LET A LITTLE THING LIKE CAR SICKNESS STOP ME!!

NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE. I LOVE FRUIT...

...OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

You looked like you had fruit...

Fine! I hope you never bear fruit again!!

AN EXTERMINATION...

SHOCK!!

GRRUMBLE

THIS IS WHY I HATE SPOILED MOB BRATS...

HONESTLY. YOU NEED TO REMEMBER THAT YOUR WORDS CARRY A LOT OF WEIGHT.

I did a terrible thing...

I DIDN'T EXPECT THE WHOLE OPERATION TO BE GONE WHEN I PASSED BY THE NEXT DAY...

I ONLY MADE THE ONE COMMENT...

GREATER IS THE JOY IN HEAVEN OVER ONE SOUL THAT REPENTETH THAN OVER THE NINETY AND NINE JUST PERSONS.

?

LOOK, HE FEELS BAD ABOUT IT, OKAY?! DON'T ATTACK HIM FOR IT NOW!

IT'S *YOUR* FAULT MY LOCAL SHOPPING STREET SHUT DOWN, ISN'T IT?!

YAKUZA ACQUAINTANCE: IS UNDER THE MISTAKEN IMPRESSION THAT JESUS IS THE HEIR TO A YAKUZA GANG. IS ASHAMED TO ADMIT THAT HE REGULARLY WALKS INTO CLOSED TICKET BARRIERS AT TRAIN STATIONS.

IT'S JUST 30 MORE MINUTES TO THE ORCHARD. YOU CAN DO IT!

I CAN?! THAT SHOULD HELP A LOT, THANK YOU!

SO YOU CAN TRADE SEATS WITH US.

I HEARD IT HELPS A LITTLE TO SIT UP FRONT.

OH...? IS THIS LITTLE GIRL YOUR...?

HERE, YOU CAN HAVE THE WINDOW SEAT...

SHIZUKO: THE YAKUZA-SAN'S WIFE. IS ASHAMED TO ADMIT THAT SHE HATES CARROTS.

AND...

THMP

...FOR OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

NO, NO, NO! AIKO WANTS TO SIT IN THE FRONT ROW!

AIKO, WE'RE GOING TO LET THIS MAN SIT HERE, SO COME WITH ME AND...

MY DAUGHTER AIKO.

HEY, COME ON, NO CRYING.

...SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN AND FORBID THEM NOT TO COME UNTO ME...

ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE! HERE WE ARE!

FIRST LE ORCHARD

TEP TEP

PLEASE DISEMBARK SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY!

PSHHH

MY LAP...

PAT PAT

...IS FOR LITTLE CHILDREN, TOO!

FRUIT HUNTER IS ON THE SCENE!!

ENTER THE ULTIMATE FUSION!

HE'S SO GOOD TO MY DAUGHTER...

HA HA. I GUESS PLAYING WITH AIKO-CHAN MADE HIM TOTALLY FORGET HIS CAR SICKNESS.

STOMP STOMP

Let's go!! Fusion power-up!

La France !!

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

DADDY SAID WE WOULD BE HUNTING *APPLES* TODAY!

OKAY, OFFICER AIKO!! WHAT SHOULD WE HUNT FIRST?!

NEITHER. HE'S A MES-SIAH...

I CAN'T TELL IF ANIKI IS A DEMON OR AN ANGEL...

SHIRT: GETHSEMANE

NO WAY. NOT DOING IT.

AP-PLES ?

...WHAT ...?

WELL, HE'S RATHER CHILD-LIKE HIMSELF, SO...

Before

WHA—!

NO, HIS LEGS.

IS THE POISON THAT BAD?!

After

I NEVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT APPLES BEING POISON-OUS...

THEY ARE POISON!!

THEY'RE SO BAD THAT THE SNAKE WHO TEMPTED MY FATHER'S CHILDREN TO EAT THEM GOT IN SOME SERIOUS TROUBLE!!

SERIOUS TROUBLE? DID HE GET A FINGER CUT OFF?

I want apples!!

LOOK AT ADORABLE AIKO-CHAN HERE. THE APPLES' POISON...

Apples!!

Is that really a problem?

YES... EATING APPLES GIVES YOU KNOWL-EDGE...

JUST A—

BUD-DHA, HOW COULD YOU?!

Grow big and strong.

HERE, AI-CHAN. IT'S OKAY TO EAT APPLES.

OKAY. LET'S BURN THIS ORCHARD TO THE GROUND, RIGHT NOW.

...WOULD MAKE HER SAY THINGS LIKE, "I WANT A CELL PHONE," OR, "I HAVE A BOY-FRIEND"!!

RIGHT!

IT'S NOT GOING TO HURT ANYTHING *NOW.* RIGHT, AIKO-CHAN?

GRIN

ALL OF HUMANKIND ALREADY GAINED KNOWLEDGE THE SECOND ADAM-SAN AND HIS WIFE ATE THE FRUIT.

NOOO! AIKO-CHAN'S PURE, INNO-CENT HEART!!

SHRUNCH

YOU DON'T THINK EGO IS A WORSE POISON THAN KNOWL-EDGE?

Waaah!

WHAT? HA HA HA, IS THAT SO?

AIKO'S GOING TO MARRY BUDDHA!

HOW...HOW IS THIS THE FRUIT OF KNOWL-EDGE...?

WELL, AIKO CAN MARRY YOU, TOO!

SQUEEZE

THANK YOU! BUT BUDDHA IS ALREADY MARRIED.

THE FALL OF MAN FROM MARITAL BLISS IS OUT OF THE QUESTION, TOO!

DON'T TRY TO TELL US THAT AFFAIRS ARE HIGH CULTURE!!

UGH. IT'S JUST A LITTLE GIRL SAYING THINGS. DON'T GET SO DEPRESSED.

HNNH... I WANTED HER TO STAY PURE AND INNOCENT FOREVER!

BUT YOU AND JESUS ... BOTH HAVE SCRATCHY BEARDS.

AIKO! I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO MARRY DADDY!!

EATING THE FRUIT MADE ADAM AND EVE REALIZE THEY WERE NAKED...

Here, cover up!!

Waaaah! Why am I naked?!

I...I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.

YOU CAN TRAIN TO GET BACK TO A PURE AND INNOCENT HEART.

BESIDES, EVEN IF YOU DO GAIN KNOWL-EDGE,

THAT'S A GOOD POINT...

IT IS A BEAUTIFUL ORCHARD, AFTER ALL.

Here's a basket.

WE HAVE TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS APPLE-PICKING TRIP.

ANYWAY, WE CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE.

I don't need clothes... OR LEAVES!!

WHO WENT *BACK* TO BEING NAKED IN THE PROCESS OF GAINING ENLIGHTEN-MENT.

BUT THERE *ARE* PEOPLE LIKE YOU...

WELL, THERE WAS ONE TIME...

DO YOU KNOW ANYBODY WHO COULD SEND US SOME?

THEY HAVE THOSE ONES NOW, THAT THEY KEEP IN PAULOWNIA BOXES, AND THEY COST 10,000 YEN* EACH.

FIDGET

FIDGET

*ABOUT $100

WHAT?!

DOING THIS REMINDS ME OF THE MANGO GROVES BACK HOME...

THEY GROW MANGOES WHERE YOU COME FROM?!

WHY DO I FEEL A LITTLE LIKE I'VE JUST BEEN SMOTE ON THE RIGHT CHEEK?

I DON'T SUPPOSE THEY COULD HAVE PACKED ALL THAT OVERFLOWING AGAPE INTO A PAULOWNIA BOX?

If you want to know the price, I'm told it was, "Enough gold coins to cover the field!"

...I WAS GIVEN AN ENTIRE GROVE AS A GIFT.

YOU SOUND LESS LIKE A PRINCE AND MORE LIKE YOU'RE FROM ROPPONGI HILLS.

NO, I TORE IT DOWN TO BUILD MY OFFICE.

That is *why* they gave it to me.

WAIT— THAT MEANS YOU GOT ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT MANGO!

OR MAYBE SOME-THING AKIN TO TRAUMA...

I'D SAY IT'S MORE MY FATHER'S INFLUENCE...

IS THAT WHY YOU'RE SO PICKY ABOUT WHITE RICE? BECAUSE YOU COME FROM RICE COUNTRY?

OH YEAH, YOUR FAMILY GROWS RICE...

DON'T WE? WE'RE ALWAYS EATING THE RICE THAT COMES STRAIGHT FROM MY FAMILY'S ESTATE.

OH, BUT I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE A FARM-TO-TABLE THING GOING ON...

SOUNDS LIKE YOUR FATHER WAS BORN TO EAT RICE!

Wait, Suddhodana means... What...? No...

I WAS NEVER MORE SHOCKED THAN WHEN I FOUND OUT MY DAD'S NAME MEANS "MEAL OF WHITE RICE"...

Your family really takes naming seriously...

THAT'S FARM-TO-TABLE.

UH, YEAH. THE *SCENT* IS REALLY NICE...

I FEEL FULL JUST BEING HERE, SURROUNDED BY THE SCENT OF APPLES.

BUT IT'S TRUE THAT NOTHING BEATS FRESH-PICKED FRUIT.

WELL ...

ACTUALLY, I'VE NEVER EATEN AN APPLE BEFORE.

THE WAY YOU EMPHASIZED "SCENT"... YOU DON'T LIKE APPLES?

MMM, WELL, MAYBE.

IF YOU THINK I SHOULD ...

YOU'RE JUST PREJU-DICED!

COME ON, GIVE IT A TRY!

WELL, YOU KNOW. IT'S THE SYMBOL OF ORIGINAL SIN.

YEAH, BUT YOU'RE THE SON OF GOD! THAT'S NOT A THING FOR YOU!

...YOU'VE NEVER HAD AN *APPLE?!*

WELL? WHAT DO YOU THINK...?

Blessings upon it!

WILL HE GIVE IT THE "BLESSINGS UPON IT" SEAL OF APPROVAL?!

THIS IS...

SHRUNCH

SHRUNCH

SHRUNCH

SHRUNCH

HEH HEH HEH... I CAN TELL BY HOW FAST HE'S CHEWING THAT THIS IS HALLELUJAH LEVEL...

SHRUNCH

WELL?

AND THE SOUND OF ITS CRUNCH IS PLEASANT TO MY EARS.

EACH BITE CARRIES A REFRESHING TARTNESS UP INTO MY NOSTRILS WHILE THE SWEETNESS SPREADS STEADILY ACROSS MY TONGUE...

OH? WHAT'S THE MATTER, BUDDHA? THAT'S A VERY UNIQUE POSE!

Heh heh.

NOW I KNOW THE REAL REASON DAD DIDN'T WANT TO LET PEOPLE EAT THEM...

HE THOUGHT MAYBE THEY HAD JUST STARTED A NEW TV SHOW: HALLELUJAH-WORTHY EATS.

...THANK YOU FOR DESCRIBING THE FLAVOR IN SUCH A CLEAR WAY FOR ALL OUR VIEWERS AT HOME.

AND THE ORCHARD LETS YOU TAKE HOME AS MUCH AS YOU CAN CARRY!

BUT THESE TREES SURE HAVE A LOT OF FRUIT!

O BUDDHA, ENLIGHT-ENED ONE...

SO LET'S GET PICKING, JESUS!

IF I HAVE TO, I CAN ACTIVATE MY THOUSAND-ARMED KANNON MOVE...

WE SHOULD ONLY PICK AS MANY AS WE CAN EAT BEFORE THEY GO BAD.

WE HAVE ENOUGH APPLES.

SHHH

WITH THOSE THOU-SAND ARMS OF YOURS...

I'M GOING TO BE FRANK.

WE CAN MAKE JAM, THEN IF WE SPREAD IT ON BREAD AND EAT IT WITH EVERY MEAL...

GULP

...YEAH.

BUT THE THING ABOUT APPLES IS...

YOU ARE MEANT TO USE THEM TO REACH OUT TO THOSE WHO ARE LOST, ARE YOU NOT?

...NOT BREAD FOR THE JAM!!

JAM IS MADE FOR THE BREAD...

WHY IS HE BEING SO DIFFICULT RIGHT NOW?!

GLINT

DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

WAIT, JESUS! WEREN'T YOU SAYING POLITICS, BASEBALL, AND RELIGION WERE BIG NO-NOS IN BLOGGING?!

OBVIOUSLY I'M GOING TO TITLE IT, "REPENT."

HE SEEMS DIFFERENT... DON'T TELL ME THE APPLE REALLY DID GIVE HIM KNOWL-EDGE?!

Come on, everyone! All aboard!

I don't know if we got our money's worth...

GRR... AND THIS IS ALL WE'RE TAKING HOME?!

HEH HEH. IS TODAY'S POST GOING TO BE TITLED "FRUIT HUNTER"?

HA HA HA. OH, BUDDHA. WHY WOULD I TITLE MY BLOG ENTRY THAT?

THAT'S THE JESUS I KNOW.

HE TOOK A PICTURE!

SNAP

OH! ARE YOU UPDATING YOUR BLOG, JESUS?

HALT

KLIKKA KLIKKA KLIKKA KLIKKA KLIKKA KLIKKA

...

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND, BUDDHA? WHAT PEOPLE NEED IS AGAPE AND...

Please remain seated!!

DON'T DO IT, JESUS! YOUR BLOG WILL BE FLAMED!!

I AM THE SON OF GOD! I FEAR NO ANONYMOUS PERSECUTORS!!

HUH?

OR AT LEAST ...

A PLASTIC BAG...

AAAAHH!

THIS IS WHAT YOU GET FOR TEXTING ON THE ROAD!!

A BARF BAG...

BLEEE-EEGH...

OH. THE SUNSET ...

HM?

HE VOMITED UP THE APPLES. DOES THAT MEAN...?

NNNGH. I'M SORRY, BUDDHA.

VRRROOOM

LATER

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?! I CAN CARRY YOU TO YOUR APART-MENT...

THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL CARRY HIM.

THAT'S OKAY. YOU MUST BE WORN OUT FROM ALL THAT VOMITING.

UGH, NO!

HE'S STILL TALKING LIKE A COMMENTA-TOR...

IF I WERE TO COMPARE ITS BEAUTY TO SOME-THING, I WOULD SAY...

IT'S MAG-NIFI-CENT, ISN'T IT?

THE PEEL OF AN ORANGE.

AN ORANGE ...

THAT'S RIGHT. WELCOME BACK, JESUS!

It looks like something you'd see on the shore, right?

IT TURNS INTO A SEA CREATURE, DOESN'T IT?

...WHEN YOU PEEL AN ORANGE AND KEEP THE SKIN,

OOOHH, WHAT'S THIS? IT LOOKS DELICIOUS!

AND SO...

WAIT, WHAT? YOU *POSTED* IT?!

WAIT, YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?

THE THING IS, I POSTED AN ENTRY EARLIER, BUT I DON'T REMEMBER WRITING IT, AND I WANT TO PUSH IT OFF MY FEED.

AWWW. WELL, I CAN AT LEAST PUT IT ON MY BLOG...

WHAT? BUT I WANT SOME, TOO...

YES, I THOUGHT I'D GIVE IT TO AIKO-CHAN.

YOU NEED TO MAKE SURE ANOTHER APPLE NEVER PASSES YOUR LIPS!

NO ONE KNEW WHAT TO SAY, SO THERE WERE ZERO COM-MENTS.

THAT OTHER JESUS ISN'T ACTUALLY SO DIFFERENT...

HERE IT IS...

title | Repent!

HUSTL

Hustle Orchard
Coming soon: The Kingdom of Heave
With rhythmical trumpets and spectacular actio
One stylish scene after another, all accomplished with no special effects...

Can you survive?

comment (0) | trackback (0)
total

BLEE
EEEG
GHH...
Spins +
Super Speed +
Sudden Ascents +
Sudden Drops +
Lack of Stable
Seating
The world's
most
sickness-
inducing
transportation,
unknown even
to the gods.

TRANSLATION NOTES

Compulsory Courtesy Chocolate, page 3

The Japanese Valentine's Day tradition is that girls and women give chocolate to the objects of their affection, often as a way to confess their love, or reaffirm their love to their significant other. However, it has also become customary to distribute chocolate among male friends, colleagues, etc. to show appreciation for them. This courtesy chocolate is known as "*giri choco*," and is often translated literally as "obligation chocolate." The title of this chapter takes it even farther, and makes it *girigiri choco*. *Girigiri* is a term used to indicate "just barely"—like how Jesus "just barely" didn't float up into the sky on the previous page. When used to describe chocolate, it can indicate a double obligation, indicating that the giver of the chocolate is truly giving it purely out of a sense of social obligation and otherwise would have totally avoided the tradition. This sort of chocolate usually involves the least amount of thought or effort.

Let's go get cold feet together, page 4

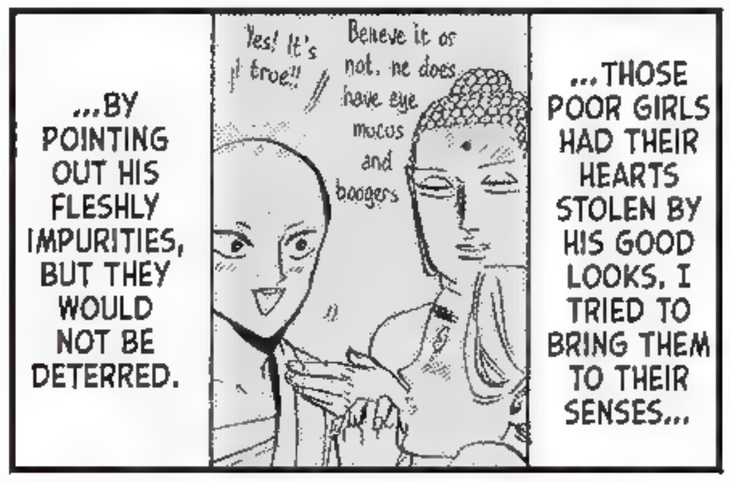
The translators confess to adding some exaggeration on the speaker's part. Naturally, Buddha invited Jesus to go skating together. In Japanese, the word for skating is *suberi,* which means more literally "to glide" or "slide," as across the ice in ice skating. In that same vein, it can mean to "slip," as in "to slip up," as in "to fail utterly," especially with jokes, etc.

Saint Valentine, page 10

Valentine's Day, or Saint Valentine's Day, originated as a festival to commemorate the martyrdom of Saint Valentine (Latin name Valentinus), who is in fact the patron saint of lovers. Legend has it he was imprisoned for secretly performing marriages in order to spare the husbands from being forced to go to war.

Ananda and the ladies, page 11

Ananda is famous in Buddhism for being supportive of women. He is the one who convinced Buddha to allow women to join the Buddhist monastic order, and was so popular that there were even nuns who had to leave the order because they could not overcome their affection for him. Another woman, Matanga, fell in love with Ananda and flirted with him whenever he came to town to beg. Buddha said she must become a nun for a year before she would be allowed to marry Ananda, and during that year, she learned that her feelings for him were unclean and decided to dedicate her entire life to being a messenger of the truth.


...BY POINTING OUT HIS FLESHLY IMPURITIES, BUT THEY WOULD NOT BE DETERRED.
Yes! It's true!!
Believe it or not, he does have eye mucus and boogers
...THOSE POOR GIRLS HAD THEIR HEARTS STOLEN BY HIS GOOD LOOKS. I TRIED TO BRING THEM TO THEIR SENSES...

Setsubun, page 13

60 beans a day...
Don't overdo it, Jesus!!
Setsubun
YOU'D ALWAYS MAKE A BEELINE FOR THE BEAN AISLE WHEN WE WENT TO THE GROCERY STORE...
YOU WERE ALL, "I'M GONNA DO IT! I'M GONNA EAT ONE BEAN FOR EACH YEAR OF MY LIFE BEFORE FEBRUARY IS OVER."

On February 3, the Japanese celebrate Setsubun to welcome the coming of spring. It used to be a sort of New Year's celebration, and so was accompanied with traditions to get rid of evil for the coming year. One of these traditions is *mamemaki*, or "bean scattering," a practice that involves chanting, "Demons out! Luck in!" while throwing beans either out the door or at a family member wearing a demon mask. It is also customary to eat roasted soy beans—one for each year of your life.

WAIT... IF YOU WANT ANGELS...
I don't think those are my angels...
THE ONES THAT ARE SUPPOSED TO MAKE YOU FALL IN LOVE IF THEY HIT YOU IN THE HEART...

Angels with arrows, page 13

Known most commonly as cupids in Western entertainment, these angels actually originated from Greek mythology as part of the retinue of Aphrodite, goddess of love. Cupid is the Roman name for Eros, son of Aphrodite and Ares, god of war. He carried magical arrows that could fill their target with desire.

Training in the wilderness, page 14

After his baptism, Jesus went to the wilderness to fast and commune with God. At the end of this period, Satan came tempting him, first trying to get him to change stones into bread. Next, he tempted Jesus to prove that he was the Son of God by jumping from the top of the temple, to see if he was really protected by angels. Finally, Satan offered to give Jesus all the kingdoms and wealth of the world of he would worship Satan. Jesus's response was, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

Tirol, page 15

Tirol chocolates are small chocolates that cost 20 or 30 yen, and come in a variety of flavors and packaging, thus making them quite collectible. Given how small and cheap they are, a gift of a single one would usually not convey much love at all.

White Day, page 18

White Day falls one month after Valentine's, on March 14. On White Day, men are expected to give out the gifts, often returning the favor from Valentines Day. Traditionally the gift involved marshmallows, hence the name White Day, but nowadays anything will do.

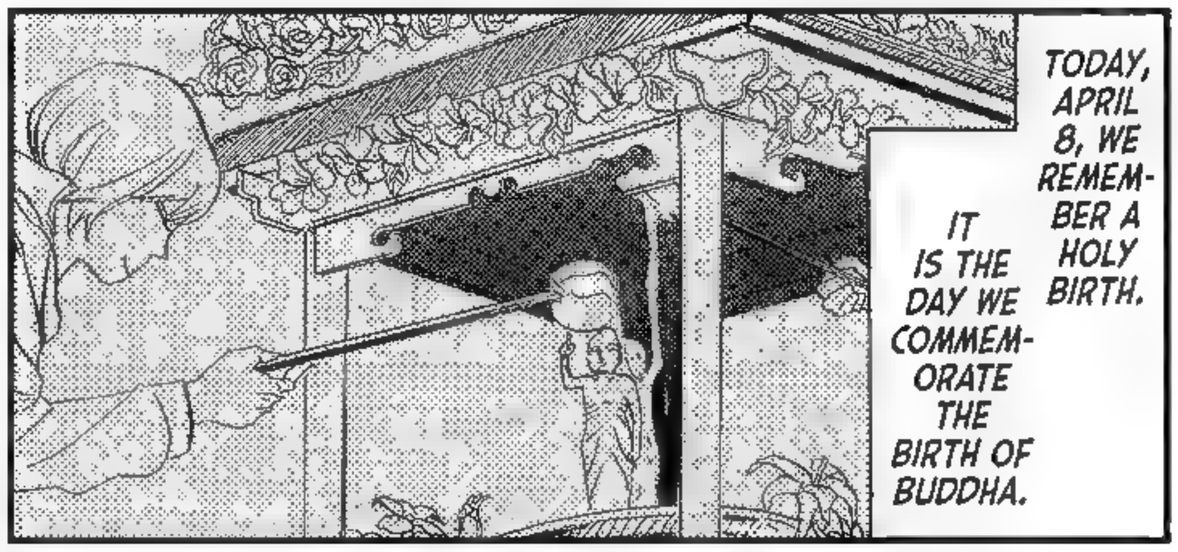
The Best Ox, page 18

Buddha was born into a family whose surname was Gautama, which is Sanskrit for "the best ox."

Tiramisu, page 19

The writing on this tiramisu, in its undivided form, says *aibetsu riku*, or "separation from loved ones is suffering."

Buddha Day, page 23



Legend has it the exact date of Buddha's birthday is the eighth day of the fourth month in the lunar calendar. The day is celebrated in Buddhist countries all around the world with festivities that include, but are not limited to, poems, parades, theatrical performances, special decorations, and donating food and clothes to the poor. Every year, this day falls on different dates (usually in May) of the Gregorian calendar, but in Japan, the day is celebrated on April 8 nevertheless. A statue of Baby Buddha pointing to the heavens is placed in a small shrine covered with flowers to represent the garden in which he was born, and sweet tea is poured over the statue to represent the sweet rain that fell that day. In some versions of the legend, the sweet rain was either pure water or nectar of immortality that was poured on Baby Buddha by dragons or serpent kings.

Biker gangs, page 26

To the average Japanese person, the phrase "*tenjō tenge yuiga dokuson* (holy am I alone throughout Heaven and Earth)" will likely call to mind a specific, very non-religious image. The saying was commonly embroidered on the backs or sleeves of the long coats worn by members *bōsōzoku*—violent groups of motorcycle enthusiasts who are given to reckless driving habits.

Drugged elephants like him, page 29

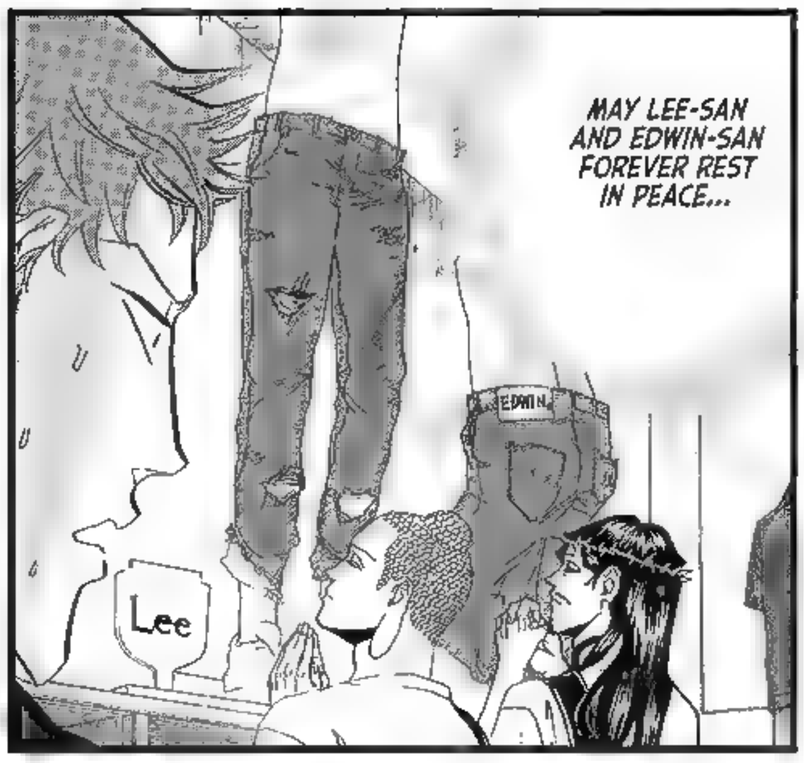
Once the Buddha's disciple Devadatta tried to kill Buddha by making an intoxicated elephant attack him. The attempt failed because the elephant would not remain enraged in the Buddha's kind presence.

The First Seven Steps, page 30

While the words on Buddha's t-shirt may put the reader in mind of a classic manga series called *Hajime no Ippo* (The First Step), it is also a reference to the event immediately after his birth, when he took seven steps, pointed up to the Heavens with his right hand and down to the Earth with his left, and proclaimed, "Holy am I alone throughout Heaven and Earth." As he took those seven steps, lotus blossom bloomed in his footprints.

Mountain Person, page 35

Specifically this refers to preferring mountains over the beach. The Bible contains several accounts of Jesus retiring to the mountains to pray, to commune with God, and so on.



Lee and Edwin, page 40

Lee and Edwin are both clothing brands that focus mainly on jeans.

Dress You, My Child!, page 40

The Japanese title of this chapter is *Fuku Kitaru!*, which literally means "clothing comes!" However, the Japanese word for "clothing" is pronounced the same as the Japanese word for "blessings," and so the chapter title is a play on "blessings come!"

Clay Bird, page 41

There is an apocryphal account (meaning it's not in the Bible) of Jesus as a child making birds out of clay and bringing them to life. There is also a mention in the Qur'an of Jesus forming birds out of clay and breathing life into them with God's permission.

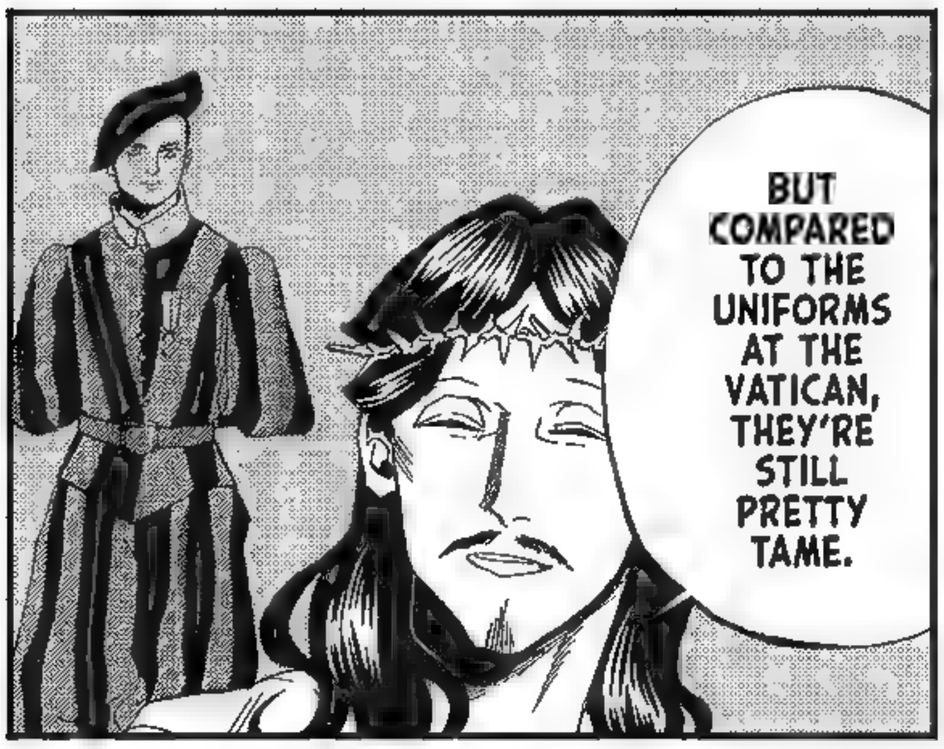
Golden Deer, page 41

In a past life, the Buddha was born as a beautiful golden deer who rescued a man from drowning in a river. He asked only that the man not tell anyone about him, because he did not want to be hunted. But the king learned of a golden deer through the dreams of his wife, and determined to track the deer down, offering a very lavish reward to whoever helped him find the creature. The man who had been rescued by the deer was very poor, and the reward tempted him enough to break his promise and reveal the deer's home to the king. When the king found the deer, the deer told him of the man's promise, and king nearly punished the man instead of killing the deer. But the deer forgave the man and asked the king to have compassion, not only on the man and the deer, but on all creatures.

Yuzawaya, page 42

A craft and art supply store where many cosplayers go to buy fabric.

I REMEMBER. YOU USED TO THINK A FABRIC STORE *WAS* A CLOTHING STORE.
Hmm... I think about this much.
RATTLE RATTLE
I REALLY STRUGGLED, NOT KNOWING THE CURRENT FASHION TRENDS OF THE MORTAL REALM.
NO KIDDING. I HAD THE SAME PROBLEM WHEN I BOUGHT A COAT.
In Yuzawaya...



Papal Guard uniforms, page 43

The Papal Guard uniforms are blue, red, orange, and yellow in color. They were designed in the early 20th century and inspired by paintings of the Papal Guard from the Renaissance.

Nothing will ever convince me to wear clothes, page 44

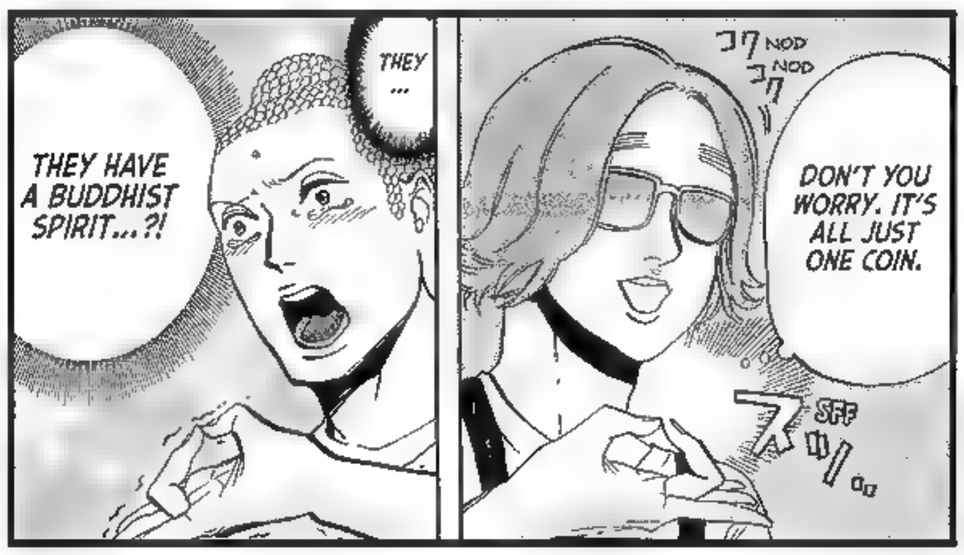
In stories about the Buddha's previous lives, there is mention of a time when he went naked. After he gained enlightenment, he realized that nudity did not serve much purpose in helping one to change for the better, and forbade the practice among his followers.

Katsu, page 48

After Buddha performs a sequence of mudras (accompanied by the appropriate mantra syllable) to tie his tie, he finishes by shouting *katsu*. This word means "to yell" or "shout," and is often shouted by Zen masters at their students to encourage and guide them. It is also used in martial arts contexts to focus energy, which is probably the way Buddha is using it here.

One-Coin Mudra, page 52

The gesture used by this shop employee to tell Buddha that he really does only need one 100-yen coin to pay for everything is also the Shuni Mudra, also known as the seal of patience.



Since it's only 100 yen, page 53 Here, Buddha is forming another mudra with his hands. This one is the Vitarka Mudra, or the teaching mudra.

Fūrin Kazan, page 55

This a slogan used by the famous samurai Takeda Shingen. It means "wind, forest, fire, mountain," and is a reference to Sun Tzu's *The Art of War,* where he advises warriors to be swift as the wind, gentle as the forest, fierce as fire, and unshakable as the mountains.

40 teeth, page 57

Buddha's physical appearance is described in part by the list of 32 Characteristics of a Great Man. These include the urna on his forehead and the bump on top of his head. Another of these characteristics is that, rather than the 32 teeth most adult humans have, he has 40.

Battle of Wills, page 58

The Japanese word for "battle of wills" is *nekurabe,* literally meaning "root comparison." It happens to sound similar to *konkurabe,* the Japanese pronunciation of "conclave"—the meeting of cardinals to decide the new pope. An especially long conclave to decide who would become pope after the death of Pope Clement IV became a literal battle of wills as the French cardinals and (mostly) Italian cardinals refused to see eye-to-eye on whom to call to the papacy next. This almost three-year battle of wills has been immortalized in the Japanese pun, "The konkurabe is a nekurabe," or, "The conclave is a battle of wills."

Cheap movie day, page 59

In Japan, movie tickets generally go for around 1800 to 1900 yen (approximately $18, $19), with discounts for students, seniors, etc. There are also certain days of the week or month when you can get special discounts.

Especially the Old Testament, page 62

While the book of Revelation in the New Testament is generally the go-to book for a description of the end of the world (in fact, the word "apocalypse" literally means "revelation"), there are plenty of prophecies about the last days in the Old Testament, especially in the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel.

GASP
BUT HE'S SO FAR GONE, HE'S USING WORDS LIKE "FREAKIN'".
IF I LOSE SIGHT OF HIM, HE MIGHT GET RECKLESS AND HURT HIMSELF.
OH! THERE YOU ARE! JESUS!

Using words like freakin', page 69

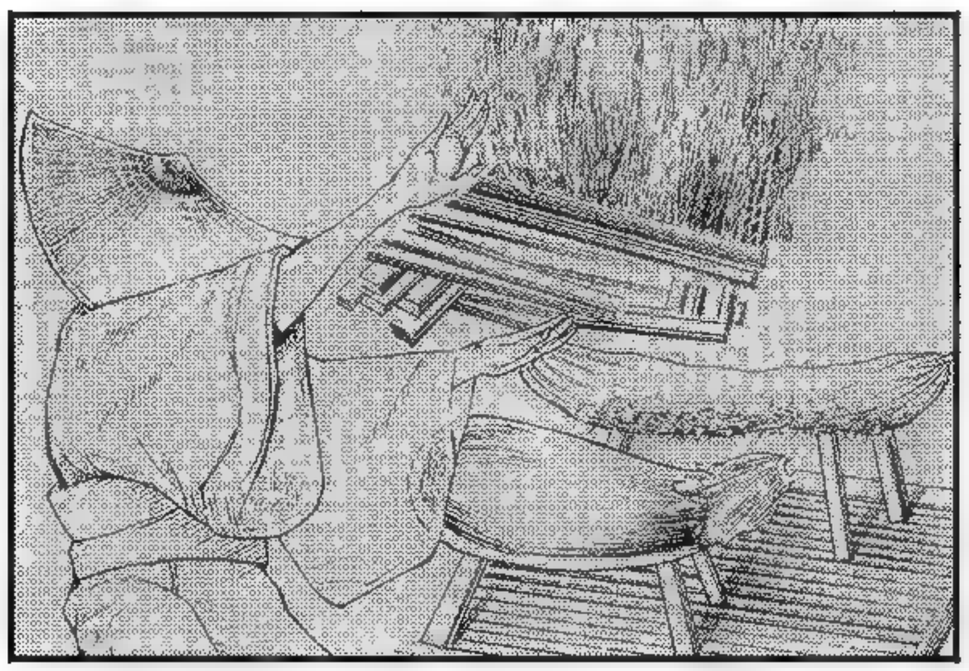
Originally Buddha says, "He's gotten so wild that he's using *ore* as his first-person pronoun." *Ore* means "I" or "me," and is considered to be among the crudest of Japanese first-person pronouns. Usually Jesus the more polite *watashi* to say "I" or "me," but his distress over the loss of the otter has him resorting to the more vulgar pronoun, and speaking more like a member of the Yakuza in general.

I wonder if another saint came down from Heaven, page 70

There are multiple myths and traditions about rainbows forming bridges from Heaven to Earth, the most famous arguably being the Bifrost of Norse mythology, but the concept exists in other cultures as well.

Riding vegetables, page 75

As Buddha describes, this is an Obon custom to help deceased ancestors make their way to and from the afterlife. Giving legs to an eggplant makes a cow, which will give a slow ride back to the afterlife, but cucumbers can also be used, making a horse to bring ancestors home quickly.



Bon Bon Bon, page 76

This title features three different kind of Bons. The first is the Bon of Obon—the aforementioned holiday. The O is added at the beginning to elevate the term and show respect to it, so in that case, Bon and Obon mean the same thing. The second is the Bon of Bonten, which is the Japanese name of Brahma. The last Bon likely refers to the sound of lighting a fire, such as a bonfire, which is not an uncommon feature of Obon festivals.

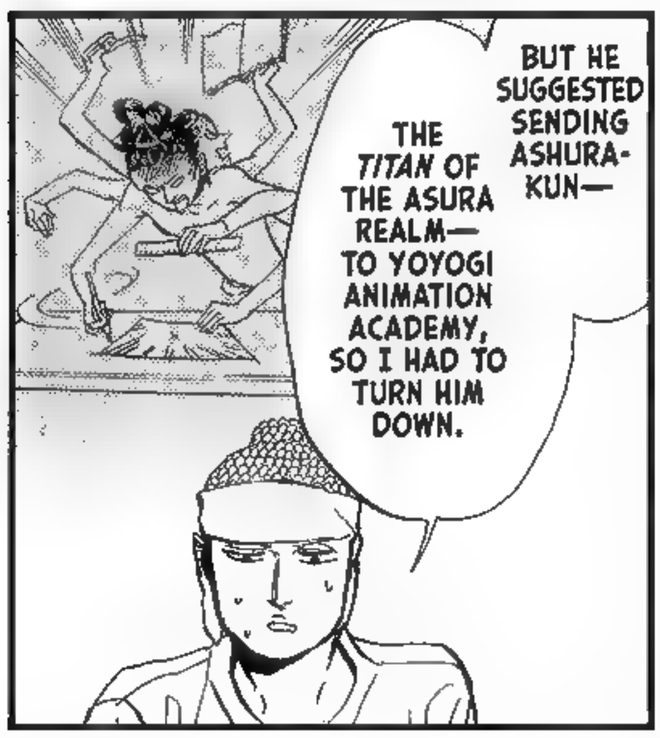
Lourdes, page 77

A French town at the base of the Pyrenees Mountains. It became a Catholic pilgrimage site after a girl who later became Saint Bernadette saw visions of a woman who identified herself as the Immaculate Conception (a term related to the Virgin Mary) and asked that a chapel be built near the town.

Mountain of Spikes, page 77

One of the most well-known features in the Japanese vision of hell is the Mountain of Spikes. As the name suggests, it's a mountain made of sharp, pointy spears that sinners are made to walk across.

Asura-kun the Titan going to Yoyogi Animation Academy, page 78



Yoyogi Animation Academy is a school in the Chiyoda Ward of Tokyo that teaches all manner of anime-related trades, including manga artistry. In Japan, when someone is coming up against a tight deadline, it's called a *shuraba,* which translates roughly to "battleground" or, in entertainment contexts, "fight scene." But in this case, it is the word for "crunch time," "hell week," or whatever colorful term a creator may feel like using for the death they feel when all they have time for is work. Literally, it means "place of the asura," where "asura" translates to demigod, titan, or demon, and refers to the creatures that rule over the Asura Realm—one of the six realms in Buddhism, where fighting and death are a constant. Naturally, when hearing that Buddha is faced with a place of asura, the obvious solution would be to train the king of the Asura Realm to assist him.

Top Idol Ashura, page 79

Around the year 2009, the officials at Kofukuji Temple in Nara launched a grand endeavor to revive the popularity of their Buddhist statues, particularly of Ashura. Their efforts were wildly successful, and when they culminated in an exhibition in which their Ashura statue was put on display in Tokyo, people young and old lined up for hours just to see it, and the museum had to extend its opening hours to accommodate them. Meanwhile, 15,000 replicas of the statue sold out in just two weeks. Later, the exhibition was sent to Kyushu, hence the national tour.

OH, YEAH. HE'S ON THAT NATIONAL TOUR RIGHT NOW, TOO...
I CAN'T MAKE MY HEAVEN OFFICE'S TOP IDOL GO THROUGH ALL THAT.
I HEAR FIGURES OF HIM ARE SELLING LIKE HOTCAKES HERE ON EARTH.

Da Vinci and Raphael, page 80

Leonardo da Vinci, more commonly known as Leonardo, is a Renaissance painter, inventor, sculptor, architect, etc. who lived from 1452 to 1519. He is most famous for painting the *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper* (pictured here). He is the subject of the best-selling but largely inaccurate thriller novel, *The Da Vinci Code,* in which the protagonist finds evidence of a Church-wide cover-up in the artwork of Leonardo. Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino, more commonly known as Raphael is another Renaissance painter who lived from 1483 to 1520. His sample artwork shown here is a section of the *Sistine Madonna*.

Ullambana, page 81

This is the Sanskrit word for the Bon Festival.

Riding a goose, page 81

Brahma was adopted into Buddhism from other religions such as Hinduism, in which deities are often depicted with animals known as *vahana,* or "vehicles." The *vahana* that accompanies Brahma is a bird called a *hamsa,* which can refer to a goose or a swan.

Otakiage bonfire delivery, page 84

One of the rituals performed on Obon is a ceremonial fire used to released cherished objects from their physical form and return them to the Heavens. The objects burned are usually mementos of the deceased or good luck charms purchased or received throughout the previous year.

Sakra-san, page 84

Sakra, or Taishakuten in Japanese, is the ruler of the Devas.

Maudgalyayana rescues his mother, page 86

One of the Buddha's closest disciples was Maudgalyayana, who was known for his great skill with psychic powers. According to a story told in the Ullambana Sutra (the origin of the Obon tradition), he used these powers after his parents died to find out what realms they had been reborn into. His father was safely reborn in Heaven, but his mother had been reborn into the Realm of Hungry Ghosts because of her sins. Maudgalyayana tried to feed her, but the food always burst into flames before she could eat any of it. The Buddha's disciple asked his master for help, and the Buddha told him to make offerings to some monks and ask them to pray for his ancestors. They did, and his mother was freed from her hell.

Awa Odori, page 87

The Bon Odori, or Bon Dance, as it is known today originated as a folk dance to welcome the spirits of the dead. There are different variations of it in different regions.

A very Marie Antoinette thing to say, page 90

Marie Antoinette is a French queen to whom is attributed the quote, "Let them eat cake." The suggestion was made as a proposed solution to the peasantry's lack of bread—if there is no bread (because of a famine, for example), let them eat cake (specifically brioche, a luxury bread available only to the upper classes).

Galilee and Arhat, page 93

Galilee is a region in northern Israel where Jesus served most of His ministry. Arhat is a Buddhist term for someone who has gained enlightenment, or has made significant progress on the path to enlightenment.

The Sabbath was made for man, page 93

The Gospel of Mark tells the story of a time when Jesus and his disciples were walking through corn fields (where "corn" is a generic term in the King James Bible used to describe all grain), and his disciples picked the corn and ate it as they went. Because picking food is a form of labor, the Pharisees, who had created several strict and specific rules for proper Sabbath observance, accused these disciples of breaking the Sabbath. One of the things Jesus said in response was, "The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath." In other words, the Sabbath was instituted as a way to help people recover from their labors, and so observance of the Day of Rest should not become a chore.

Manga Michi, page 96

Manga Michi, or "Manga Road," is the autobiographical manga of Fujiko Fujio, the manga-making duo famous for creating *Doraemon*.

Yo daddy's an outie, page 106

This is a play on the common Japanese children's insult, "Yo mama's an outie!", referring to the shape of said mother's belly button. It carries an implication that the child shouting the insult is insinuating that he or she has seen the addressee's mother in the nude, or would at least have some sort of inside info on what her navel would look like. Some have theorized that the word for "belly button" is also a euphemism for a woman's genitalia, in which case the insult would indicate that the person making the claim thinks the organ in question looks funny (which they would only know if they had seen it). But in modern times, it's a phrase shouted in childish quarrels with no real thought behind it except that it probably sounds funny and insulting at the same time.

Double the Gore, page 109

This could be referring to the blood on screen as well as the blood flowing from Jesus's forehead, or it may possibly refer to double the bloodthirsty horror villains—the chainsaw sound effects are most easily explained by the possibility that they are watching Jason vs. Leatherface, where two iconic horror figures clash. Jason is the villain of *Friday the 13th,* where his weapon of choice is the machete. Leatherface is the masked horror from *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre,* where, naturally, he uses a chainsaw.

Deliberately chose to ride a donkey, page 111

Soon before he was crucified, Jesus made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem riding the colt of a donkey, with multitudes of people shouting Hosanna. There is great significance in his choice of a donkey: first, it was in fulfillment of a prophecy that the Messiah would come riding a donkey. The animal was a token of peace—a king going to war would ride a horse and bring with him all the trappings of war, but a king riding a donkey came in peace. Finally, the donkey is the symbol of Jewish royalty. In other words, soon before the Atonement and Resurrection, the Prince of Peace rode the royal animal that was itself a token of peace.

Divya-chaksus, page 111

This is one of the Abhijna, or six higher knowledges that include extra-sensory perception. Dibba-cakkhu, or *tengen* in Japanese, means "divine eye," and grants the ability to see all things, including people's past and future lives.

Assumptions, page 112

An assumption, also known as ascension or translation, is when someone is taken bodily into Heaven, as opposed to dying and having only the spirit go to Heaven. After Jesus was resurrected and spent time teaching his apostles, he went back to Heaven in what is known as the Ascension of Jesus Christ.

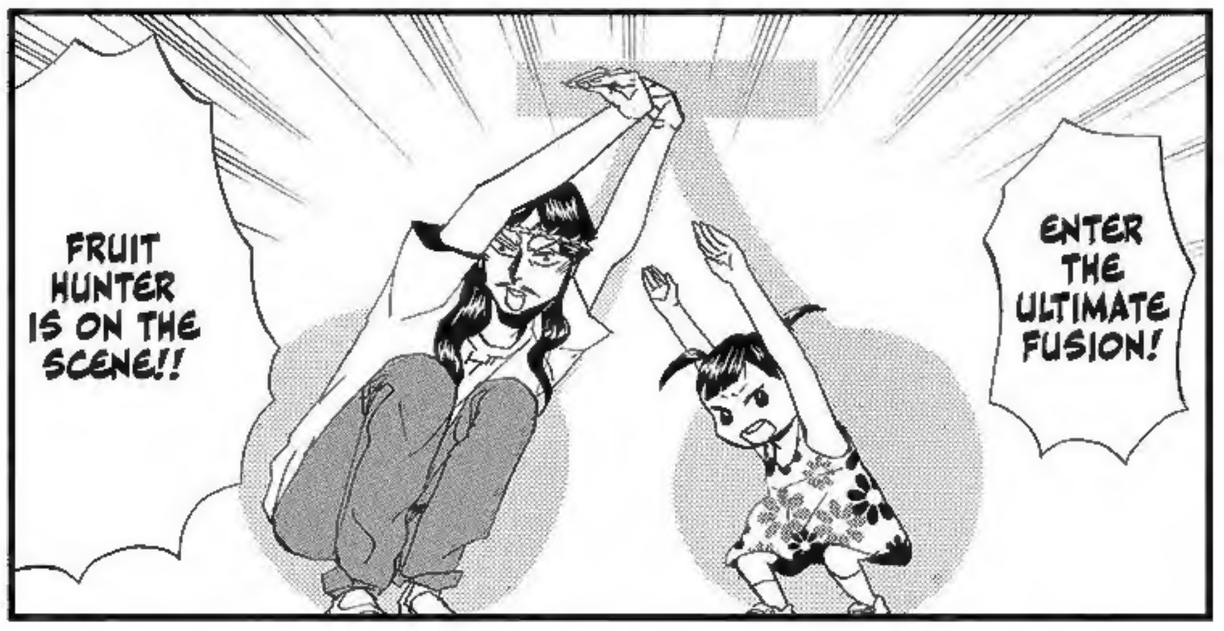
Suddhodana, page 113
This is the name of Siddhartha Gautama's father.

Cursing the fig tree, page 114
At one point in his ministry, Jesus came upon a fig tree that was covered in leaves—a sign that the tree also had fruit. When the fig tree proved to be all form and no substance (there was no fruit), he cursed it to an eternity of barrenness for its hypocrisy, and before long the tree withered away and died. This happened in early spring, around the time of Passover, and figs are in season briefly in early summer, then have a longer season that runs from late summer into autumn. However, fruit-buds of the fig often appear earlier than the leaves, so any fig tree with leaves is also likely to have mature fruit. In fact, some species of fig are still edible before they are ripe, so it is not unreasonable that a fig tree with leaves on it would have edible fruit even in the spring.

The joy in Heaven, page 114
This is a reference to The Gospel of Luke, chapter 15, which tells of the Pharisees criticizing Jesus for associating with sinners.

Suffer the little children, page 115
This is something Jesus said when people brought their children to be blessed by him, and the disciples told them not to bother Jesus. When He saw it, He told them not to forbid the children, because "of such is the kingdom of heaven." He then blessed the children before going on His way.

Fruit Hunter, page 116
The Japanese word for picking fruit in this sort of situation is *karu,* which in this case would be defined as "to wander the mountains or fields in search of plants, flowers, mushrooms, etc." However, its more common definition is "to chase down and capture birds or beasts," in other words, "to hunt." For this reason, Jesus and Aiko choose "Fruit Hunter" as the cool English name for their ultimate fusion.



The Fruit Hunter transforms further into La France, which is the Japanese name for the Claude Blanchet pear. This pear had little success in France, because the climate makes it hard to grow, but in Japan it has thrived and become a bit of a luxury item, nicknamed the Queen of Fruits.

A demon or an angel, page 116
More literally, this Yakuza friend says he can't tell if this terrifying mob heir is an asura or a Buddha (where the term "Buddha" is used as a general term for someone who has achieved enlightenment and therefore is very kind and saintly). Buddha replies that Jesus is a messiah, which literally means "anointed one," and more specifically refers to the Messiah—the prophesied Savior.

Gethsemane, page 116

This is the name of the garden where Jesus Christ prayed and suffered for the sins of all humankind. He experienced pain so great that "his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44). The name means "oil press," as it was a place where olives were pressed to make olive oil. As such, there were several olive trees there.

Apples are poison, page 117

This is a reference to the Biblical tale of the beginning of the human race. Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden and told they could eat any of the many fruits growing abundantly there—any except for the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. The serpent beguiled Eve and convinced her to eat the fruit. She gave some of the fruit to Adam, and sin and death were introduced into the world as a result. God cast Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden, and cursed the serpent that it would travel on its belly from that time forward.

The Bible never identifies the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil as any specific fruit extant on the earth today, but the general assumption is that it was an apple. This may have been a play on the Latin word for evil (*malum*) and the Greek word for apple (*melon*), or it may be from the habit of using the word "apple" as an umbrella term for any foreign fruit (a habit that existed as late as the 17th century). Other candidates have been suggested as the real forbidden fruit, including but not limited to figs, pomegranates, grapes, and mushrooms.

It may also be worth noting that while the fruit of the apple is not poisonous, the seeds do contain small amounts of cyanide.

Affairs are high culture and the fall of man from marital bliss, page 118

"Affairs are high culture" is a line attributed to the Japanese actor Junichi Ishida, who defended his infamous extramarital activity by saying, "Culture and art often spring from the love affairs we call infidelity." This comment was further sensationalized by the media into simply, "Affairs are high culture."

"The fall of man from marital bliss" is an adaptation. This part of the line was original *shitsurakuen*, which means "lost paradise," as in Milton's *Paradise Lost* (an epic poem about the fall of Adam and Eve), or as in Junichi Watanabe's novel, *A Lost Paradise,* about a former magazine editor, his extramarital affair with a younger woman, and their subsequent double-suicide.

Paulownia boxed mango, page 119

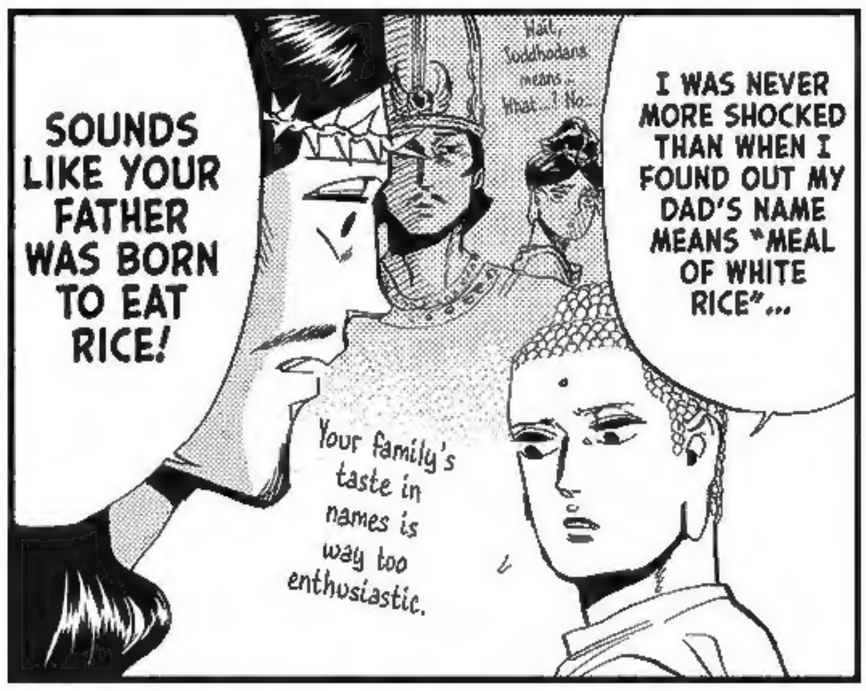
Jesus is likely referring to the Egg of the Sun mango that is highly valued in Japan. Although the same variety can be bought in Florida for only a few dollars, in the Miyazaki Prefecture, these mangoes are raised and harvested with a special process that ensures the highest of quality. Because they are such prized fruit, they are sold in luxury fruit stores and packaged in paulownia boxes, which are often used for very formal gifts.

Enough gold coins to cover the field, page 120

The land for the Jetavana Temple was purchased by a disciple of the Buddha's, who was challenged by the land's owner to cover the entire plot in gold coins and succeeded in the task, except for one area which the owner donated to the cause. The land was covered in trees (which may or may not have been mango trees), and there is a mango grove on the outskirts of the grounds.

Roppongi Hills, page 120

Roppongi Hills is a mega-complex in the Roppongi district of the Minato Ward of Tokyo. It includes office buildings, apartment complexes, shops, parks, etc. There are many high-profile companies with offices there, whose CEOs also live in the complex. The Hills-*zoku*, or Hills clan, are the people who live there—mostly young wealthy people who live flashy lifestyles.


SOUNDS LIKE YOUR FATHER WAS BORN TO EAT RICE!
Wait, Suddhodana means... What...! No...
I WAS NEVER MORE SHOCKED THAN WHEN I FOUND OUT MY DAD'S NAME MEANS "MEAL OF WHITE RICE"...
Your family's taste in names is way too enthusiastic.

Meaning of Suddhodana, page 120

Suddhodana is Sanskrit for "he who grows pure rice." Buddha's interpretation here is likely a derivative of that.

Hallelujah-Worthy Eats, page 122

Buddha suggests that Jesus's commentary on the taste of apples is reminiscent of the Japanese TV show *Kuishinbo! Banzai! (Long Live Gourmands!)*, a daily five-minute food show in which the host would go all around Japan sampling the local delicacies.

Saint Young Men 4

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